

On the Correct Samoyed

Robert H. Ward
Hidden Hills, California

A “technically” correct Samoyed may not be a “show dog,” yet many owners and breeders possess such dogs and breed for the dog which is technically correct. And they do not understand why it is not a consistent winner.

What is this technically correct Samoyed? It is the dog which has seventeen Reserves and five one-point show awards. It is the most heart-breaking type of dog to own because it is difficult to understand how this could happen, how the dog cannot get a major. The dog will be quite correct in gait, i.e., it will be a clean mover in front that single-tracks well and clean and straight in the rear with acceptable single-tracking. It will also have adequate reach and extension on the side movement. The dog will possess a good head (neither broad nor narrow), a good ear placement (neither high nor low), a pleasing almond eye (but without the necessary triangular “squint” to it), an average to good spring of ribs and depth of chest to the elbow. Of course, it also has the correct coat with good texture. Why, then, is this dog not a top consistent winner? Because HE HAS NO OUTSTANDING VIRTUES!

The dog with the intangibles, things such as ring presence, personality, dominance, temperament, one who has extra drive and balance in movement, or a dog who has the attitude of a king or queen, will take the eyes of the judges, exhibitors and spectators as a winner, even with a few minor faults.

When judges and exhibitors add up a dog, they count the good qualities first and do not put a dog down for a fault or two. If this practice is not followed, we end up with good average dogs that are good representatives of the breed but have nothing outstanding about them.

If we are to talk of SHOW DOGS, we must give credit to dogs that SHOW. To say, “Well, my dog does not like indoor shows,” or, “My dog likes outdoor shows,” is to admit that your dog is almost a show dog but

that his attitude and temperament is incomplete.

If traveling bothers your dog and he doesn't eat well or show well because of the conditions, he is not a “great specimen” and probably shows best in his own backyard or living room. These are things to consider when breeding your Samoyeds. Do you suppose that the natives bred the dogs who would not work well in both winter and summer? Do you believe that in the process of favoring natural selection they allowed the “shrinking violets” who shy from a woman judge but not from a man judge, or vice versa, to do much breeding?

I find that most of the excuses in the show ring and on teamwork are just that, excuses for dogs with poor temperament. Once I had an exhibit that shied, and the owner said, “He is afraid of your hat.” Off with the hat, and the dog still shied. After being given a second and third chance, the dog growled at both myself and the owner and was excused. The owner left with apologies and the remark that this was the first time this had happened. Later, as a judge, I received a copy of the letter which is sent by AKC to any exhibitor whose dog is excused. The letter said, in part, “Madame, this is the third time that your dog has done this in the ring.

Please do not show him anymore.”

This dog received a great deal of care in the ring because it was in Novice class, and because of a great deal of love for the breed; however, you should know that another dog acted the same way in Open and was also excused. Later, upon reading the catalog, it was found that the Open dog was the sire of the Novice dog.

Our standard states, in part, “a picture of beauty, alertness, agility, dignity and grace.” These terms are subjective and they are projected only through the dog's personality. The Samoyed “smile,” without coarseness, is partly lip formation, but it also comes from the “inside.”

As breeders, you have all developed many good sound dogs and studied much about structure. Let us not only work on a “WORKING DOG,” which we have, but let us make it a picture of beauty and alertness. And, above all, let us NOT FORGET THE LAST PARAGRAPH OF OUR STANDARD: “Disposition – intelligent, gentle, loyal, ADAPTABLE, alert, full of action, eager to serve, friendly but conservative, NOT DISTRUSTFUL OR SHY, NOT OVERLY AGGRESSIVE. Unprovoked aggressiveness to be severely penalized.” ... The Christmas dog with a smile for all through the year. •

Movin'

On Movin'

Betty McHugh
Oshawa, Ontario

DURING a conversation with a fellow Samoyed breeder recently, the subject of correct Samoyed movement arose. The reason for the comment was an ad I had placed in a breed publication, picturing my “pride and joy” in a flying trot – reaching in front and driving in rear and doing the thing that sparked the discussion called “over-

driving.” This occurs when the dog is carried forward by momentum and all four feet are off the ground, and the distance, at which the striking right rear limb strikes the ground is ahead of the place that right forepaw struck the ground.

The dog moves so quickly that it is difficult to see and retain the whole picture of movement of the forelimbs, hind limbs, the body, head and tail. We find that people new to the dog game tend to watch only one aspect, usually rear, then front or topline. It takes a great deal of observation,



Picture C. Pictures A, B and C illustrate the fact that in a balanced dog the opposite diagonal will be in the same position at the same moment, as the dog is being propelled forward at a trot.

studying slow motion films, tracing movement on films, and pawprinting to develop a fully trained eye. Once this has been accomplished and we have a built in memory bank, the sight of one problem will automatically trigger the memory to produce a flow of related problems.

In order to be able to assess correct movement, we must understand the mechanics of gait. The forelimbs of the dog act as column of support, whether the dog is standing or in motion. The forelimbs carry approximately 60 percent of the total weight of the dog. The dog in motion is propelled forward by the rear limbs. If you doubt this, then get down on your hands and feet and see where the power comes from as you move yourself forward. Man is still the best comparison when trying to understand canine gait.

As the dog moves forward, a track is made by the pawprints of the four limbs. As the speed and length of stride increases, the tracks begin to converge to the center line of gravity until, finally, they form a straight single-track. The center of gravity is, according to the dictionary, "a point on any assembly of bones where opposing forces are equal." Both dogs and people move with less effort when they single-track. Even my Miniature Dachshunds attempt to single-track, although with their short legs they don't quite make it. If you doubt the above statements, try walking a good distance with legs parallel, or, as we call it, the "wet pants syndrome." Watch your local joggers and you will be able to pick the runners that will last.

As speed increases, a good Samoyed's head will go down and forward and the weight will shift forward, giving momentum to increase speed and lengthen stride. The center of gravity will shift accordingly to retain the dog's balance.

Terminology to remember: A stride is the distance between successive pawprints of the SAME limb; in other words, the distance from the point where the paw leaves the ground to the point where the same paw strikes the ground. REACH is equal to one-half of the length of the STRIDE. STATIC BALANCE is the balance the dog achieves when stand-



Picture 1-A.



Picture 1-B.

Pictures 1-A and 1-B illustrate the limbs converging to the center line of gravity as speed increases to a fast trot.

ing still, and KINETIC balance is the balance the dog achieves when moving. The two phases of the dog's movement are the SWINGING PHASE, which is the fraction of the time the limb is off the ground, and the STRIKING PHASE, which is the fraction of the time during which the paw is on the ground.

The striking phase of the forelimb is the time the forelimb is on the ground and is called the SUPPORTING PHASE. The striking phase of the REAR LIMB is the time the rear limb is on the ground and is called the PROPELLING PHASE.

We will deal with the preceding terms in depth another time, but for now it is enough that you are familiar with them.

The dog has a number of types of gait: the walk, pace, trot, flying trot and the gallop, which can be single or double suspension. Since most assessments of our dogs are done on the trot, we will deal now with the trot, we will deal now with the correct trot.

Mrs. Catherine Gardiner, of Milton, Ontario, an expert on canine anatomy and gait, once stated that a dog never moves twice the same way. This is very true, but only becomes evident with the study of slow motion films on gait or gait studies done with successive frames of still and, of course, pawprinting.

WHEN assessing a dog's gait, we must remember that the dog is a living, feeling animal and that the surroundings, state of mind, the handler, and surface on which it is moving, plus many factors, will effect the dog's gait. We have

found that a dog will move well if bone lengths and angles of the fore and hind limbs, although less than ideal, are BALANCED. The dog must also have muscular coordination (achieved through training and exercise) and the temperament necessary to produce a split-second timing, to achieve a rhythmic gait.

A dog with a BALANCED trot will move supported by diagonal limbs. These diagonal limbs, either right front and left rear or left front and right rear, will be in the same position at all times, either in the striking or swinging phases. As speed increases, the dog will single-track. When the dog reaches the ultimate in balance, coordination and synchronization, the front paw will be lifted and the rear paw will slide under and strike the ground AHEAD of the print of the front paw. The distance is determined by the length of the stride of the front assembly, or in other words, the amount of layback, leg length and height of the dog. Once again, this will be dealt with in another article.

Unfortunately, the Kerry Blue Terrier is the only breed to be completely documented, with regard to structure and movement, so that this is the only reference that can be stated as fact. The right rear paw of a nineteen-inch Kerry Blue, with ideal structure and in ideal condition, mental and physical, will strike the ground four inches ahead of the track left by the right front paw.

I have pawprints on hand of a 21-inch Samoyed male who had an extremely well-timed gait. This dog, although only 35 degrees in layback of

scapula, had equal bone lengths and achieved a stride of five feet in a flying trot and an overreach of six inches.

THE whole point of the forgoing is that "overdriving" or "overreaching" does occur and is correct under the foregoing circumstances. However, it can be done incorrectly and I will deal with some of the reasons in my next column.

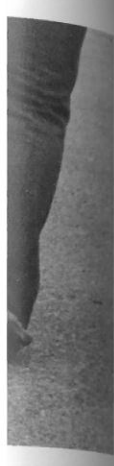
Reference: "Dogs - A Hobby or a Profession," by Catherine Gardiner and Dr. E.S. Gibson.

• • • "Movin' On" Gait Deviations

This is a follow-up column on correct movement. I will try, this time, to present some common problems or faults on movement, often seen in the ring or in any situation where a dog is being gaited with handler.

We must remember that the moving dog has a natural instinct to attempt to produce the synchronization and timing, to allow it to move with the least amount of effort. A structurally well-built dog can, off balance mentally and physically, resort to deviations, from time to time, in an attempt to control synchronization and timing.

As we are watching a dog moving from the side, we must study the topline, which covers the positing and action of the head, neck; withers, mid-back, lumbar area, croup and tail. It seems to me, as I watch dogs move, that the well-structured dogs move with heads slightly lowered. This gives maximum reach in front to pro-



duce a good synchronization and timing, which will allow the dog to move with the least amount of effort. I have watched well-structured Irish Setters being shown strung up and, as a result, their front feet were drawn so high that they almost banged into their chins. They were shown this way, through ignorance of structure and, because, had they been able to reach their maximum stride at the trot, the handlers could not have kept up with them. Since our breed is of medium size, this problem does not often occur. However, too many of our better built Samoyeds are being shown as German Shepherds, moving ahead of their handlers and actually pulling the handlers around the ring. As a result, the topline assumes a sloping position and the angles of the rear assembly remain closed, as with any animal that is pulling a heavy load. If our well-structured Samoyed is moving freely, at a fast trot, there will be a minimum of lateral and vertical displacement and a slight roaching in the loin area with each stride.

If we note that the stride of our dog is cut down or restricted, it could be that the dog is being strung up. There is a muscle called the brachiocephalicus, its origin is the distal third of the humeral crest and insertion is a tendon leading to the temporal bone. It is instrumental in extending the head and neck and when the neck is fixed, the limb is pulled forward and the shoulder joint is extended. AS a result of this muscle, if the head is held high, the forelimb can't attain its maximum reach and usually will move in a hackney motion.

RESTRICTION in front reach is most commonly caused by steep shoulders, which is poor shoulder layback, or a short humerus or short legs. The steeper the shoulder layback, the higher are the paws lifted, as they are brought forward in the swinging phase. This type of dog, provided he is fortunate enough to inherit a rear assembly to match, will move with a well-timed, synchronized gait if kept to a slow speed that he can handle. Sometimes, this type of dog will do better in our small rings at indoor shows because he moves at a flying trot all the time. However, he must take more steps to cover ground and will display increased vertical dis-

placement, both of which will tend to tire him more quickly.

Still watching from the side, we see that our dog is moving with front limb lifted high, but the bones are kept straight in the manner of a goose step. Once again, this can be caused by head being held high, but the usual reason is a short humerus or upper arm. In raising the swinging limb excessively high, the striking limb can remain on the ground a little longer. If you view this on slow motion movie film, the foot at its furthest extension is beyond the nose of the dog, but by the time the paw is on the ground for the supporting phase, the position is well back under the neck of the dog. This is sometimes mistaken for good reach, to the naked eye, because of the speed of the ascension of the paw. Short upper arms and steep shoulders are a major problem in our Samoyeds, as in most breeds.

Most people can recognize the hackney gait and, once again, it can be caused by stringing a dog up. They physical reasons for this deviation seem to be a short scapula, compared to the humerus, and it occurs sometimes with a ewe neck. It can be the result of training, as with the hackney horse, who is very often very well structured. The action is the swinging limb is lifted until the forearm is at nearly right angles with the arm or humerus. This, once again, creates a time lag and increases the vertical displacement.

Flipping the paw from the pastern seems to occur in any type of structure. It could possibly be caused by a dog who is down in pastern or too upright in pastern and is seen in both. It may be that the dog lacks muscle and ligament tone from lack of exercise. I feel that, often, in well-structured dogs, the dog is simply not being moved to his maximum, and this is a means of creating a time lag. Since the front structure is capable of good reach and unable to do it, the swinging limb must put in time because the supporting limb is in the supporting position for such a short period of time.

When we are viewing the rear assembly from the side, the most common fault that we see is stride shortened. This can be caused because, as we outlined in the last issue, the opposite diagonal must be in the same position at the same time. If our dog has a

poor front and a tremendous rear, since the rear support phase must match the front supporting phase, the maximum propulsion of the rear will be cut down. Another reason could be a short fibula-tibia, sometimes indicated by straight stifles. This is a very serious problem in our Samoyeds, as in many breeds. Another gait fault that is often seen, although not in our Samoyeds as much as in some others, is the hock that does not extend, called "sickle hock." This is due to the situation outlined above, when the rear is much better structured than the front and the hock simply does not have the time to extend in synchronization with the front. Another problem that can cause sickle hock is a steep, short pelvis, so often seen in sighthounds, or an excessively long femur and high hock, as seen in the German Shepherd.

A problem that we are seeing more of in the Samoyed ring is what is called the "piston action" of the hind limb assembly, which is very dramatic up and down movement (like pedaling a bicycle), with very little forward movement. The hock remains bent and is sometimes lifted as high as the pin bone. I personally have found this to be common when the fibula-tibia is short and the dog is very straight in stifle. There is simply not enough length of rear leg to remain on the ground in the support phase, as long as the opposite diagonal in front is in the supporting phase and, as a result, the upward motion is creating a time lag.

When we have excessive forward reach under the body as mentioned before, this indicates a steep pelvis. Standing, the limbs will balance the body with hocks naturally under the dog and slanting at an angle of less than 90 degrees. The angle of limb does not remain on the ground as long as it would normally, due to the excess forward swing. The dog is thrown off balance and will often swing the body to the side (side-wheeling) to create a time lag, to achieve synchronization.

The opposite extreme is caused by a flat pelvis (less than the ideal 30 degrees) which, standing, causes the hocks to be well behind the body in order to achieve static balance. The limb will not be able to strike as far under the body as it would normally, but it will remain on the ground, same

as above, thus going in to the swinging phase, well back of the dog. This cuts down propulsion and creates a very dramatic rear movement, often mistaken for correct drive.

In closing, a word to the wise: **DON'T JUDGE A BOOK BY ITS COVER.** Because you don't like a dog's movement doesn't mean that he is not built correctly. Learn to assess the dog – then look at his movement.

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More on Movin' – Summary of Gait Deviations

AS the title states, this will be the last column on gait for a while. I have been surprised that I have not received any letters regarding the articles; I expected at least one person would agree, or disagree, or at least express an opinion. If you have time, please send me a few short lines expressing your views. If I am not overwhelmed, and I don't expect to be, I will try to answer anyone who wishes an answer or, perhaps, use the material for future columns. Please bear in mind that in addition to being a Samoyed breeder, exhibitor and trainer, I also am a licensed judge for Groups One and Three and all classes in obedience in Canada – so, fire away!

In the last column, we were assessing the dog moving from the side. This time, we are going to study coming and going. Before getting technical, I would like to relate a true story, with regard to judging dogs coming and going. My daughter was handling a Siberian in an Open dog class last fall at a local show – and mother was requested to watch, and watch I did. The judge, a very conscientious gentleman, was making his decision on movement, coming and going. Unfortunately, his ring was relatively small and his classes large. This judge had learned that single-tracking was the most efficient gait and was placing the dogs that single-tracked, coming and going. What he had not learned, however, was that better structured dogs needed more distance in order to achieve enough speed to warrant converging to the center in a single-track. As a result, the Siberian Huskies that won that day were all relatively straight in front and rear, and the better structured dogs were not placed. This is not intended



Picture 3. Pictures 1, 2 and 3 illustrate the split-second timing when the front paw is lifted just as the rear paw slides under and past, to strike the ground just ahead of the place that the front support paw had been. Picture 1 is a young Samoyed male; picture 2, a three-year-old female; and picture 3, a three-year-old Siberian Husky. All average approximately 35 degrees of layback.

as an argument in favor of straight shouldered show dogs but as an objection to the small rings our working dogs are judged in.

As a dog moves toward you, in as straight a line as possible, you are looking at one front paw after the other being placed as near to the center line of gravity as speed and structure allow, toes striking straight ahead, turning neither in nor out. (If your dog has the correct shape of rib cage, well laid back and placed shoulders, good musculature, timing and synchronization, stable temperament, and a good surface to move on and a good handler, that is what you will see.)

HOWEVER, we may see, instead, single-tracking with paw raised a little high. This could be caused by the head being held high, which tends to straighten the front angulation and cause the paw to be raised higher off the ground. This also happens when the dog is naturally straight in shoulder. If we see single-tracking with the dog goose-stepping and pounding as the front paw strikes the ground, then the problem could be a short upper arm (humerus). If our dog comes at us with limbs lifted high and parallel, it could be that he is being moved too slowly, and needs more speed to single-track. Structural faults that cause this movement could be barrel chests, or short legs, or a combination of both. Usually, however, with short legs, at least an attempt is made to single-track. Toeing in is caused by both above structural faults, and also by straight shoulders. Any dog that naturally stands with toes pointed straight ahead will move with toes turned in.

If the dog moves with feet wider apart as speed increases, and paddles, the usual problem is that the front assembly is placed forward on a narrower section of the rib cage. When standing, the dog appears to have "both legs coming out the same hole." When this dog stands, the feet are often farther apart than the elbows. This is not a problem that is common in the Samoyed. More common is the dog whose elbows show as he moves toward us. This usually indicates a short upper arm, but can also be caused by a shallow chest or front assembly too far forward on rib cage. This is often seen in dogs between the ages of one and two years and can disappear

with maturity.

If a well-built dog is not being moved to his potential, then the striking limb is not in the support position, as long as it has the ability to be. If the striking limb is restricted in support time, then the swinging limb must take up time in order to match the support limb. This is often seen as winging, dishing, paddling or any number of odd movements classed as excess pastern action, when it is only a time lag situation.

As we watch our dog going away, we must remember that the rear-propelling limbs must synchronize with the front support limbs – and this must be taken into consideration. However, we feel that single-tracking is also the most ideal movement going.

If our dog is single-tracking as he moves away, but moving close (which means hocks parallel), then we should examine the width of the pelvis and thighs. The width of rear in our ideal dog should be the same as the spring of rib. If rear assembly is narrow, the dog will move close. Another reason for a dog moving close is a fibula-tibula; that is, irregular in length, too short or long, compared to the measurement of the long bones. This can also cause cowhocks, when in a more extreme degree. Sometimes, very good dogs in good condition will stand and move with cowhocks. When conditioned, this can disappear.

A problem that we are seeing in the ring today and one that is causing much concern is the dog that moves wide, with hind legs moving up the outside of the front legs. Although most people feel that the problem is a short back, I have found that there are two structural problems that can cause this

movement. The first is a dog with a long femur and/or short "fib-tib" combined with a fairly good front assembly; as a result, the rear limbs do not have enough length to single-track when the front striking limbs are in the support position for their maximum time. The other problem, seen more in Siberian Huskies, is the short steep pelvis, which causes the rear assembly to reach well up, under the body, and as a result may have to move wide to avoid the front assembly. Toeing in is usually not enough fib-tib and the dog will appear straight in stifle.

Probably the most common problem we see (I don't think in most cases that it is a fault) is the thing we call sidewinding or "crabbing." As a judge, I can tell you that most dogs coming and going either sidewind all the way, or at least part of the way.

Sidewinding can be caused by the dog turning his head, as in the picture in the last issue. In order to retain his balance, he must swing his rear in the opposite direction, which makes him sidewind. He may move this way because he lacks confidence in, or dislikes, his handler. If you don't believe this, then the next time you are gaiting your dog, give him a jerk and watch him turn away from you and sidewind. The only physical problem that we can find that will cause this type of movement is, once again, the short, steep pelvis mentioned previously.

Gait is a very intangible thing and extremely hard to assess with the naked eye. If you wish to win in the show ring on gait, the best advice I can give you is to exercise and train that dog until he achieves a synchronization and timing that he can exhibit quickly and in a small area. •

Image

*Dave Richardson
Fullerton, California*

So far I have written two columns with this title. Neither will be published! One because it was written while I was really angry, and you deserve better than that.

The other due to the personal nature of the subject and your abilities to recognize the players described. So, I am up to deadline time and have to write something or Don won't send me my free copy of SQ!

Novices are an extremely important part of the dog show game. All of

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us have to start somewhere on our way to becoming Mr. or Mrs. Samoyed (thank you, Kurt Unkelbach), and being a novice is a great way to begin. Do you remember the joy and exhilaration we felt when we watched the dogs being shown and understood what was happening and what was going to happen next in the ring? Very heady stuff! Being able to state, positively, that the lady with the purple ribbon had just handled her dog to Winners Dog was a BIG thing! And, to be able to discuss whether to enter old Floppy in American Bred, Open or Bred-by-Exhibitor – WOW! And, to know that the gentleman who handed the lady the purple ribbon had been able to discern that hers was the best class dog of the day, out of the many male exhibits, made one dive into any and all available literature so that one could see the fine points of that dog as well as had the judge. Then, to begin collecting purple ribbons of your own and to drive 300 miles to attend a sponsored show and take a shot at a major and you win that, plus trophies, too. Do you remember?

A couple I know went through the above scenario and, being nice kids, wrote thank-you notes to the trophy donors. Amusing little notes referencing the silverplate items and possible functions they might perform. On Christmas Eve, they got back a response from one of the donors that not only shocked them, but shocked me as well! This note could only be characterized as being vicious. As an example, the last line read, "Hopefully, we will have the good fortune not to make your acquaintance (sic) the next time we venture into ...". Another line read, "Your ignorance is only surpassed by your rudeness." Can you feel the essence of the image these kids must perceive of the donor? They don't even want to go back to the area of the show because it's "her territory."

The image of the donor, the feeling of hurt, of disbelief for the couple, will never change. They aren't novices anymore.

The novice continues his education in his chosen hobby. Slowly he begins to understand what the words mean, what the standard means, what a good dog is, what a poor dog is. The novice learns. The novice goes out and buys a really good puppy and starts campaigning it through the matches and the local

show Puppy classes. With time and maturity come the purple ribbons, the majors and, finally, the championship. Ah, the joy of it all, the top-of-the-world feeling of having tried and having succeeded. Do you remember?

So, the novice enters his championships in Best of Breed competition and runs smack into The Big Winner in head-to-head competition. This time, he isn't going to be relegated to the back of the line. He made his championship over good competition and he picked up his Best of Winners while The Big Winner was taking the breeds, and now, our hero was going to take it all! For the first time, he really looked at The Big Winner and didn't care for what he saw; the general picture of the dog was one of unbalance and no type. He got a chance to watch the dog move in the ring and didn't like what he saw there, either. Narrow in the front and wide in the rear; he looked like a moving tripod! It was the first time he had ever seen The Big Winner coming straight at him (certainly not straight into the judge) and our novice was astounded! This was going to be a lead pipe cinch!

Our novice lost the breed and began to consider why.

He considered the ownership of the dog and found that one of the owners was president of two local kennel clubs and served as chairman of the judge selection committee of a third club. The other owner was a fairly well-known and well-traveled judge who didn't mind coming to ringside before the judging and wishing his handler good luck in the ring with The Big Winner that day. Loudly. Then, he considered The Big Winner's handler.

The guy must have only owned one suit, because our hero recognized it from the numerous pictures of the handler with The Big Winner in various all breed and specialty breed magazines. Our hero suddenly realized he had seen an abnormal number of pictures of The Big Winner taking Group 2's and 3's at what would have to be called smaller shows and that it was only after the publication of these pictures that The Big Winner had started winning big. Our hero put one and one together and came up with the fact that he didn't stand a snowball's chance in Miami of beating The Big Winner under about 65 percent of the judges working his breed consistently. The Big Winner was on an inside track and our hero didn't even know the name of the railroad.

THE novice had taken it from ground zero and showed his way to owning a champion, had gotten an education in the finer and unpublished points in the big time of the dog show game, and he wasn't a novice anymore, either. The image of a dog show had changed from being a subjective comparison of interpretations of a written standard among individuals who were primarily concerned with the betterment of a breed to being an ego/power trip that had nothing to do with a dog's quality as a representative specimen of a breed.

'Tis a sad tale, but true. We all start out so bright and shiny and new, and just like our silverplate, with time, we tarnish. We aren't novices anymore. But consider this: We ARE the pros, the old-timers of the dog game, and we teach the novices by using our experiences. We ARE the image. •

Samoyed People

The Samoyed Quarterly
Talks With
Joe and Mable Dyer
CARIBOU
Shelley, Idaho

This interview was taped by Sue Skrobiszewski.

How long have you been in Samoyeds?

Mable: For 25 years.

What do you started in the breed?

Joe: In the beginning, we were looking for this hunting dog and I was thinking about a Weimaraner. I read in

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a magazine that Mable had gotten and it was telling about the Sams. And the more I read, the more interested I got. It mentioned in there that they could be used for training – for hunting dogs – so I decided I would get one and give it a whirl. And that's what I did.

How many litters have you bred, approximately?

Joe: Oh, I would guess around 100.

In the litters you have bred, what do you feel is your best litter?

Joe: That would really be hard to say, because you never know for sure whether they're going to be shown, and a lot of dogs that we have raised, that have been certainly show quality, have gone into someone's backyard. They were just an ornament there for people to come and look at and just never had a chance to get into the ring to see if they could do anything. But, those that really had a decent chance to be shown, have done well in the ring.

In your opinion, what is the best dog you have bred?

Joe: One that I can recall the most is Bauzuhl, because we had him probably the longest and did more with him than any of the other champions that we've had.

Mable: We used him more in our breeding program.

Was he also the biggest winner?

Joe: He did get a Best in Show, so, I would have to say, really, he was probably the biggest winner that we've had. But we've had a lot of them that have done almost as well as he has.

What has influenced your breeding the most?

Joe: I would think that the general appearance of the dog. We've got definite ideas as to what a dog should look like and we try to breed something that goes along with that structure and stature. We like what a lot of people call the "bear" type of Sam. Mable and I don't care for a really small Sam. If it's just maybe bigger than a Spitz, we've always felt that that was a poor dog to have to show – and I'm sure there have been some really good small ones, but they just don't appeal to us like the larger ones do.

How many Sammies do you have now and what's the most you've ever had?

Joe: Right now, we have five. The most we've ever had was sixteen.

In your breeding program, do you

mostly do linebreeding or inbreeding or crossing?

Joe: Personally, I think we more go to the linebreeding. We have inbred a time or two and I might say that the result from the inbreeding in some of the pups was very good. But, by and large, I think it's just like anything else. If you get one pup out of the litter that is extremely good (in an inbred litter), you've done well. If you get no puppies that are what you could really say were outstanding, you'd best leave it alone. Because, what you do when you inbreed is you lock in the genes that can't be gotten out unless you breed about five times to an outbreeding. And I think that the effort that's put forth in that line is something that you don't want to get involved in unless you're pretty darn sure that you're going to have things that aren't compounded, like bad faults or crooked legs, narrow heads and long backs, and stuff like that.

Once you do that, you can't get the darned things gone for years and years. They're impregnated in that dog, so you just can't get rid of them. And they show up and show up and show up. Makes you sick of what you did!

Mable: I'd prefer linebreeding in most cases, but I think, occasionally, you need to outcross to correct a fault.

If there were a dog that you thought had really outstanding points and everything, but had a serious fault, would you consider breeding to him or her, if it were a bitch?

Joe: I'm sure that I wouldn't breed to a bitch that I thought had a really serious fault. I don't believe in doing it, because the fact is, why take a chance on putting that fault out in puppies when there are too many good bitches running around that you can far better yourself by breeding to them – and not waste your time? You might as well do something that's right when you do it, and you don't really have the kind of time that it takes to raise a litter, and it's too hard work to raise a litter, that you know darn well you're going to get bad faults in. And, I think a serious-faulted dog is bound to throw off, just because of Murphy's law, more bad things than he's going to have good. So, I'm not in favor of breeding a poor animal at any time, for any reason.

What do you feel is the ideal size

for a dog and a bitch?

Joe: I like the larger much better. I prefer a bitch to be at least 22 inches and I like a male that's about 24 inches.

Do you find that this is just because of personal preference or because that is usually what is picked in the ring, or what?

Joe: I think that size in the ring is definitely something that judges look at, and I've found it true that unless a small dog has really got a lot of showmanship and that kind of thing that he is not going to win under equal circumstances over the big dog. Why, I don't know.

One of our better dogs that I think we've owned through the years was Ch. Muushka CDX, who was certainly not a real huge dog. He wasn't nearly as big as his son, Ch. Bauzuhl, but he had so many other things that were outstanding that we just liked him and loved him for what he was. But, by and large, I'd have to say I like the big dog better.

Do you feel that pertains to the bitches also?

Joe: You bet! I think the small bitch is just something that I don't really care for.

Mable: There are extremes both ways. You don't want a huge, leggy animal, either.

In your opinion, what are some of the most serious faults that you see in our Sams' conformation these days?

Joe: I would be very cautious about bite and movement. I think that a dog that is going to be shown should move well. And I think that you can get dogs with no coat and don't have any chance of getting any. You have to look at that. I hate to see double hooks in their tails and stuff like that. So, those are faults that you should look for when you go to buy a puppy, and I would let those go to the pet homes.

Do you feel that the judging is fair?

Joe: No. I think you've got a lot of politics going on and I think that you've got friends that meet friends – and I don't think it's very fair at all anymore. And, I think that it's getting worse and I hope that someday somebody does something about it. I recall one incident where the dog was biting every other dog in the ring, and that's the dog that got put up because the rest

of them didn't have enough hair and tails left to go ahead and show. And that judge knew the dog. My wife has asked the judge why that dog got put up and the judge said, "Well, he wasn't mean toward me!" And that's not what the standard says at all.

Occasionally, you run into shyness. Do you think a shy dog can be corrected by training?

Joe: I think that's related to the degree of shyness. An extremely shy dog is more than likely liable to bite someone rather than have the confidence that it takes to be shown. But a dog that's maybe just been in a kennel and not around people and doesn't understand what's going on ... I think it can be overcome by quite a bit of training. But, the old dog that's just plain shy because it's scared of its shadow and everything like that, I think it's best to leave them out of the ring and not take the chance that they're going to bite somebody.

If someone was just starting out, what kind of advice would you give to them, to other breeders who were just starting out?

Joe: If they're going to have a breeding program, I would say get the best bitch you can buy and that's the foundation. And, I think that that's probably the most important thing you can do. Then breed her to the best stud you can find that carries some of the same bloodline and does not carry the same faults or weaknesses.

I've always noticed your dogs are very well groomed when you're showing them. How much grooming should be done? How much time does it take to do a good, thorough job?

Joe: I can't do a good, thorough job in anything less than eight hours, and I think that crowds me. Probably, if you keep the dog combed at a reasonable rate, I think if you comb it before you bathe it, and then comb from the skin out after it's bathed, you're going to have between six and ten hours of time involved.

How have the dogs affected your life-style?

Joe: Oh, I think they've probably been one of the best things that's ever happened to us. We've had good family relations. By that, I mean of our four children, we've had one that really wasn't interested in showing and the other three, I think I'd have to say, did exceptionally well. Our son, who



showed his dog in obedience (Kenny's Blazer Boy of Caribou) had a CD and was also a champion, later when owned by Donna Yocum. And Bonnie had a little bitch that she showed to her CD. And then she showed several other dogs in conformation as well as obedience. And I'm sure she got lots of legs on other dogs in obedience, but I don't remember for sure how many. And then our middle daughter, Pam, has shown dogs for friends. We kind of are a doggy family.

Mable: She competed with her dad in the ring and used to say she was going to "depeet" her daddy.

I think that both of you have been judging, haven't you? Including Pam?

Joe: Pam has, and so have I.

What has been the benefit of being in dogs for all these years?

Joe: I don't know. I believe, and it's all in my heart, that a child that has a pet and is interested in animals like that is going to stay out of trouble. And it has proved to be that way with us. We haven't had any of the children that's ever been in any kind of problem with the law or hasn't developed into a child and a grown-up that we can be really proud of. And we certainly are proud of them.

Mable: We've met so many nice people through the dogs and through the puppies that we've sold. People who have been friends through the years.

What about Shondra of Drayalene? Tell about how you came about getting her.

Mable: We got her from Helene Spathold when she was a tiny little puppy. We really felt she was a great dog. She produced good puppies for us and was a natural shower. She was very easy to handle in the ring and we thought she was one of the finest Sams that we've had.

Joe: She was eight weeks old when we got her. We had her bought before she was even conceived; we told Helene what kind of a dog we wanted and she had decided to breed Shondi and Dede, and when they arrived, we were notified that they were here and we were on needles and pins, as you might say, just couldn't hardly wait to get the dog, and we got her off the plane and I think she was probably eight weeks and one or two days old. She came out of the crate and was just full of life and was very animated. We were so pleased that we just probably had a heck of a time keeping our shirts buttoned. We just couldn't believe that we were fortunate enough to get that dog and she certainly did prove to be everything that we'd hoped for all her life.

We showed her in some matches. In fact, we drove to Salt Lake a couple of times to some matches they had in Utah, and then we showed her a time or two in a regular show, and then the

National Specialty in 1964. Then Mable finished her over in Denver, Colorado under Bob Ward.

What was her biggest win?

Joe: It'd have to be the National Specialty. That's absolutely her biggest win, and I think that's, to me, as great as any Best in Show.

How old was she when she won that?

Mable: Two years.

What kind of coat did she have?

How big a bitch was Shondra?

Joe: She was a good size bitch. When she was naked as a jaybird, she was not small. She had a very full coat, but it wasn't what you would call extremely long. It was, I'd say, four to five inches long and so, possibly, you could say it was a long coat. But not as long as some dogs that I've seen that had hair eight and ten inches long.

Mable: For a female, I think she carried an extremely long coat. She never looked out of coat. In fact, when I finished her in Denver, Bob Ward wanted to know if she was the same one that had won the Specialty at that time, the Denver show, she had lost a considerable amount of coat and he thought she looked better without so much coat.

Was she good with children, and all that?

Joe: Oh, she was a fine dog with kids. In fact, she'd babysit most of the time. Pam was little then and then when we got Terry, they both had their arms around her and pulled on her tail and stuff like that. Whatever they did was just A-okay with her. She didn't care about it at all.

How old was Shondra when she died?

Joe: Seems to me she was about twelve.

How about some of the people? Some of the older, more established breeders through the years?

Joe: Several years ago, I guess it was right after we had gotten Shondra, we decided to take a vacation and go down and see Mable's sister who lives in California. So, while we were down there, we took advantage of the time and we met Billy Tucker, who later proved to be one of our finest friends, and we just really love her. And we got to meet Agnes Mason, who probably had more to do with developing good Sams than most people even realize. She had Rex of White Way, who used to be a sled dog in Idaho, carrying mail from Ashton, Idaho to West Yellowstone, Montana. And there was Lloyd Van Sickle who ran this dog team. And that how the mail got in and out of West Yellowstone, Agnes Mason furnished the dogs and Lloyd drove the team. This happened for many years, and Rex of White Way produced some of the finest Sam progeny of any that I've ever known. He had a lot of strength and a lot of character. Lots of bone, and if you get back on a lot of pedigrees, down through the years, you'll find out that that's where some of them started.

And, I think Billy Tucker, who got her first dog, it seems to me she told me, in 1927, has developed some of the finest dogs that I have ever come across, there at Encino Kennels. And Bob and Dolly Ward I don't think hurt

the breed in any way, either. They had some fine dogs. We bought a dog by the name of Capella from Bob and Dolly, and she was bred to Winter Trails Blazer, who was owned by Jean and Chuck Burr, whom we also got to meet while we were in California. And that's, by the way, where Kenny's Blazer Boy of Caribou came from - from Capella and Ch. Winter Trail Blazer.

Then we had Slippery Sue of Caribou, who was out of that same litter, that was probably the best lead dog I ever worked on the sled. We showed her quite a bit, too. She was an outstanding lead dog, I'd have to say, for sled work. I like that, too.

And then we got another dog from Helene, Clarisse, who is the mother of Nachalnik that Doris McLaughlin got.

And, of course, we've met Doris and Harold McLaughlin whom we really think a lot of.

We've met so many people who are so nice and so wonderful through these dogs that I just can't name them all.

What is your opinion of some of the kennels or the bigger names of today? Do you feel that the quality is the same?

Joe: I think I'd have to say that the quality has improved down through the years. I couldn't deny that in any way. Really, in this area, the dogs that are being shown today, you just don't find any better quality any place in the United States.

Thank you for letting us visit with you. •

Centerfold

Am/Can Ch. Steffi-luna's Troika of Sea-Sun

January 29, 1966 - December 12, 1976

Breeder: Ethel Stefanik Owner: Rosemary Jones

Ch. Tod Acres Fang
Ch. Joli White Knight
Ch. Kobe's Nan-Nuk of Encino

Ch. Kolb's Siberian Mick
Bel-Ora's Kira-Vam
Kordalane's Tammy

TROIKA was purchased at seven weeks of age from her breeder, Ethel Stefanik, to show and as our foundation bitch. I had first greeted her at birth. She was co-owned at that time by my daughter, Melodee, who shared the responsibility of raising and training her. Troika was raised and lived as a family pet. The promising puppy became the realization of all of our hopes, dreams and expectations. She obtained her title in both countries owner-handled and became our first champion. Showing her was a real pleasure as she was a natural in the ring. Her record would be envied today and we are proud of it.

Troika completed her American championship with five major shows. She took her first points on April 27, 1968 and finished August 4, 1968, going Best of Winners three times and Best of Opposite Sex three times, once over Specials all while losing her coat.

Her Canadian championship was attained in three shows with one three-point and two five-point wins which included on Best of Winners and three Bests of Opposite Sex, one being over Specials. She was never defeated by another bitch in Canada, taking her first points June 28, 1968 and finishing August 11, 1968. Both titles were acquired one week apart – winning eight out of nine consecutive shows with a novice handler for a grand finale. It was a lot of fun!

Troika, in her prime, was 23 inches and 65 to 70 pounds – a large bitch, but feminine. Her keen intelligence and alertness were attributes both at home and in the ring. She was very sound and her hips were x-rayed clear. Breeding her was the next step in this venture and our hopes were high.

After much pondering and careful consideration in choosing a stud, she was bred in 1969 to Ch. Steffi-Luna's Kiff of Woodhaus, producing her first litter of four females and one male. Troika proved to be an easy whelp and excellent brood bitch. In 1971 she was bred to Sea-Sun's Shann Tavyk and again four females and one male resulted.

On August 20, 1972 Troika was shown for the last time at six and a half years of age, taking Best of Opposite Sex at the Samoyed Club of Washington State Specialty. She was in full bloom and that was, if memory



serves me, the only time that she was shown in full coat. She was a bitch worthy of Specialing, but she seemed always to shed at the wrong time for our shows here.

Now for the bad news, and progressive retinal atrophy (PRA) is bad news. In December 1971 I learned that Kyzyl of Sea-Sun, a bitch from Troika's first litter, was affected with PRA. Needless to say it was alarming news. One week previous to this news I had bred Troika to Tavyk. This was the beginning of the PRA era and the course of events that followed were not pleasant ones. I suspended all breeding. We needed some solutions and answers. Routine ANNUAL eye examinations and the Samoyed Club of Washington State Eye Research were instigated at this time. Troika's eyes were clear at six years of age and Tavyk's eyes were clear at three years of age. Kyzyl's sire Kiff was found affected at age four, and Tavyk became affected at age five. So both of Troika's litters were sired by PRA affected studs. Her dam, Bel-Or's

Kira-Vam, was also affected. Dame fortune really smiled on me when at nine and a half years Troika became affected with this sinister disease, too. All of these dogs were robust, healthy specimens of the breed.

Unfortunately and innocently, there were two Troika and Kiff daughters bred. Kyzyl of Sea-Sun was bred to Ch. Kondako's Dancing Bear and Ch. Hazel And Ken's Prince Neko. Tiffany of Sea-Sun's Troika was bred to Sea-Sun's Shann Tavyk. These three litters were whelped in Maryland, the Chicago area and Oregon. The result was PRA in each litter. My intent is not to point fingers but to inform those who may find these dogs or combinations in their pedigrees. Facts are facts.

PRA can wipe you out and I was totalled. It didn't happen overnight, but over a period of years. Breeding affected to affected produces ALL affected. Breeders beware, PRA is a threat to our magnificent breed. It is not a bloodline problem. Affected dogs must all be culled from breeding

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programs. Only by ANNUAL checking and rechecking breeding stock and progeny can we prevent blindness from becoming the reality of the future. The indifference of active breeders is disturbing to me.

We lost Troika to cancer at almost

eleven before her PRA had progressed to total blindness. Her PRA affected daughter Kea, now past eleven, then became a cherished part of our lives. Troika was all of the joys and all of the heartbreaks in one dog. •

Notes by Rosemary Jones

Kicking the Habit

*Jeanne Nonhof
Waldo, Wisconsin*

SHOWING dogs is a way of life. We learned that recently when we decided to take the summer off from shows.

But, it's hard to quit "cold turkey." Just because you are not actively going to shows doesn't mean you can drop your club activities. If you hold any kind of an office, you have responsibilities – indeed, if you're a good member in any club, you have duties to perform. Possibly you're a member of an all breed club and are involved in ongoing duties there. Or maybe you are in a smaller specialty club where your absence would be conspicuous. In good conscience, you can't just drop out for the summer.

Now, if you're really addicted to dog shows, you will find constant reminders every way you turn. Premium lists keep coming and there is no way you can just throw them away. You just have to torture yourself and look to see who the judges are. Of course, you guessed – some of your favorite judges are doing the shows that are just twenty miles away. And you've got a dog that needs just one point to finish and another that is looking for a major. But you'll stay home – and think about it all day!

And your "doggy" friends don't stop calling to let you know the latest happenings; after all, you're not dead, just taking a sabbatical.

Of course, you can't turn Mother Nature off. That bitch you've been waiting to breed finally comes in season. So, the phone bill doesn't go down, as there are shipping arrange-

ments to be made and then the call so everyone knows she has arrived at her destination safely. And the trip to the airport.

As you're doing your daily kennel chores, you notice that the young fellow you've just kind of kept around is really starting to come together and you had better start taking him to some shows – oops, no shows for the summer. Hard to remember – don't really want to remember.

I do remember a longtime Samoyed fancier who just up and quit. Said they were tired of the backbiting, etc. Well, they had a top-winning and producing Samoyed, and that kind seem fair game to everyone who has ever lost to them. It took them two tries to quit, though. And they still show up now and then just to see what is going on.

Did you ever think about the many ways dogs affect your life? What kind of car do you drive? I'll bet you ten chocolate chip cookies that it is one with room enough for crates. Has your social life gone to pot because you are gone weekends to shows? Do people wonder about you because you use the word "bitch" loosely? Do your cohorts at work turn to you with all of their doggy questions? Do you take your Sammies along to the supermarket and find yourself explaining to a circle of admiring people all about the breed and their care? Is your house filled with doggy literature? You now subscribe to the AKC Gazette and let House and Garden and Field and Stream drop? Is your regular night out now training classes for the dog instead of bridge club? When you speak of a judge, it is not the judicial

system you're thinking of – unless you got a ticket on the way to a dog show you were running late for. Does your car (van, motor home) now include a CB and fuzz buster? Funny, you didn't need them before.

Has your circle of close friends expanded to include people in other states? Maybe you even plan what shows you will attend because you have friends in the area and if you don't go because you don't like the judge, you'll miss a really good party. Sometimes you'd like to see another part of the country so you attend a circuit in that area – good excuse, isn't it? I've always wanted to go to Bermuda (Bermuda Triangle notwithstanding), and I know the only way we'll ever get there is if we go for the Bermuda Circuit. I even know a fellow whose interest in dogs has led him to be currently planning a move to England.

Many of our non-doggy friends tend to raise their eyebrows when we say we're going to yet another dog show. However, I see them spending big bunches of money on their hobbies: golf, bowling, sitting in bars, boating, fishing, etc., and nobody looks askance at them. Could it be that the raised eyebrows are because showing dogs is not the norm? When people think of kennels, they think of smelly, fly-infested places with many barking dogs. Why can't they think of a hobby/kennel as a warm, safe, clean place for well-loved dogs to reside? Why can't they think of dog showing as a sport indulged in by ladies and gentlemen?

WHY do you always hear the question, "Do you make any money at it?" Do people make money at bowling? Golf? Fishing? Some do. The pros. And why should the sport of dogs be any different from the rest of the sporting world? Why should you expect a sport that you enjoy and offers so many other rewards to reward you financially also? Think about all of the benefits you derive. I know a lady who was very close to a mental breakdown when she didn't have her beloved dogs. Since she is back, she has had not even the hint of a problem.

So with all of the benefits – friends, travel and our active interest – I doubt that we'll kick the habit. But it

has been a different kind of summer. Not quiet, just as busy, but a little different with a little more time to just enjoy.

Dogs exert a powerful effect upon our lives. How about yours? Think about it! •

bloodlines have been moved around to aid in stabilizing our breed – BUT, WHAT NOW OF THE PRESENT COST OF AIR FARE, \$225 TO SHIP A BITCH OR A STUD ACROSS THE USA? Will all breeds return to sectionalism of type?

To get down to the “nitty-gritty,” do we want change or expect change in our Samoyed breed? We have one of the very few breeds that appear to be the same in books that are more than 25 years old.

We have had and still have “fad breeders” in our breed and, for that matter, in all other breeds as well. Some have specialized in long, droopy, flat coats, broad heads with extra short muzzles and large, dark, round eyes. A few lines have been created with straight shoulders and straight stifles, which creates a nice picture of high set tail with “clean” movement down and back in the ring, but can hardly move around in a circle and certainly does not measure up to their original purpose.

Once, I, too, had images of the “differences” of our breed and what they might be in other countries, but then I found it was just like the USA, a wide range with the standard type and size, hidden somewhere in the big crowd. When we first saw the breed in England, I tried to buy a champion dog that was placed fifth in the Open class at Crufts. (I did not know that he was a champion, I just liked him.) The owners laughed and said, “Why do you want a dog that lost?” I answered that this dog possessed original size and type and could win well in America. I was told that this was the first time that Grenadier of Crensa had ever lost (he was only two years old) and that he was not for sale. We obtained a male that was Grenadier’s litterbrother’s son (uncle breeding theory) and quite similar. When we showed this dog in America, the comment was, “Well, the Wards found the only dog in England that looks like an American dog.” His family type in England, Ch. Grenadier of Crensa, has been awarded his 43rd Challenge Certificate at the age of ten years, so it seems that many English judges think he is fairly good, too. So what has been changed? If an “American” type dog can win that much in England and his nephew is laughingly referred to as the English dog with American

On the Subject of Change

Robert H. Ward
Calabasas, California

ONE of the most often asked questions is, “Are the dogs now better than they were years ago?” This question translated in the questioner’s mind is, “Am I doing better than anyone else in the history of the breed?”

The best answer to this question of change is that we now have more “good ones,” “bad ones,” “small ones” and “big ones,” and many more mediocre ones in the middle. I do not mean to say that the show ring does not look better, but that is because the sheer numbers in competition has forced most of the really bad examples to stay home.

Once upon a time, it was a fact that 90 percent of all registered Samoyed owners could be persuaded to enter their dog at an AKC show. Today, an educated guess would be about 10 to 12 percent of those registered each year with the AKC. So, if the Sammies entered at a championship show look better to you than they did 30 or 40 years ago, this is a concrete reason. Note that 10,000 to 12,000 puppies have been registered each year for the past six years and only about four percent of those of show age appear at a parent club specialty.

We would like to discuss a few specific examples of dogs which might shed some light upon this subject of change. During the early 1940’s, when the U.S. Army decided to experiment with sled dogs, Mrs. A.E. Mason gave a dog, Soldier Frosty of Rimini, to the service. The fact was that while he was a good dog and a willing worker, he was the “runt of his litter.” Frosty was approximately 21 1/2 inches tall and about 44

pounds in working weight. He sired Ch. Omak (about 22 1/2 inches and 52 pounds), who sired Ch. Yurok of Whitecliff, who was about 24 inches. Jean Blank and I measured both Ch. Yurok and Ch. Starchak’s Witan when traveling on the Oregon Circuit in 1956. Witan was 24 inches and 72 pounds, as a fully matured adult, while Yurok only weighed 57 pounds, as he was only one and a half years old. The point here is that neither “Rocky” nor Witan ever sired a dog as tall as themselves, thus did not change the breed on size but did leave some good movers in their paths. Interesting to me was the fact that each had vastly different dams both in size and type. Kara Babkah, dam of Yurok, was quite tall and lean (about 23 inches and 55 pounds), while Witan’s dam, Duchess, was about 21 1/2 inches and 52 pounds.

Another parallel fact of these two dogs of 25 years ago was not only their differences, but their pedigrees. Ch. Witan was only the sixth generation out of Arctic through his dam to Anarctic Buck (year 1909).

YUROK was another that close to the wild. Six generations by way of Ch. Nianya of Snowland and seven generations through Ch. Petrof Lebanof. Ch. Donera’s Barin, who was five generations back, was the only Samoyed brought to America through AKC rules with a two-generation pedigree.

We would have to agree both of them were closely akin to the original dogs.

If we are having any permanent “changes” in the breed, by larger or smaller bone, longer or shorter coat, wider or narrower heads, it is only sectional in our country. In the past ten years, due to our modern mobility,

type, where is the change coming through the years?

The great majority of the original breeders and owners started with this breed as working dogs. Even in England, the early kennels, like Kilbourn Scott's, worked their dogs in harness. In the USA, the Pinkams, Norka Kennels, Monsignor Keegan, Ernie Barbeaux and Agnes Mason considered them WORKING DOGS and put them in harness and only bred dogs that worked well. To quote from a letter that Mrs. Mason sent to her breed standard committee in 1950: "First and foremost, it is my opinion that in order to determine the standard, we should decide if it is the desire of the majority of Samoyed owners to keep our breed in the working dog class." It seems that there always has been a fear that we become Non-Sporting or Toys. (We shall present her letter in full at a later date as well as letters from other early breeders on the subject.)

ATTEMPTED variations we have had, but changes, NO. We still have our Ch. Tolbolsk's (early import of the 20's - Percy Robert, upon awarding Ch. Yurok BIS at Long Beach, said he reminded him of the size and type of Tolbolsk) and Ch. Stormy Weather, 23-inch dog (Washington). We have our 24-inch Ch. Prince Kofski (shown by Phil Marsh) in the late 1930's, Ch. Karasea's Silver Nikki and Ch. Karasea's Silver Kim, both 23 1/2-inch and 24-inch dogs and both BIS in Canada and New York; Ch. Nordly's Sammy (1950), who won four National Specialties, a 23 1/2-inch dog; Ch. Vrai of Lucky Dee, a 22-inch bitch, with two BIS in 1954; Ch. Rainier, a 23-inch, Group I on the Pacific Coast in 1950; Ch. Dobrynia, an outstanding 22 1/2-inch dog in the 1937; Ch. Starchak, a 23-inch dog, with 28 straight BOB's in the late 1940's; and Ch. Donerna's Barin, a 23-inch male, in 1923. They were all of the same type, with medium width head, 55 percent of height in their legs, good bone, but not massive; all of a working type, to Anarctic Buck of 1909, whom we all know is the pillar and "fountainhead" of the breed.

Where are the changes in these winners in the past 70 years? Look up a bitch (which was sent to Duc'd

Abruzzi by F. Nansen) by the name of Grasso, in "On the Polar Star in the Arctic Seas" by Amedeo, Luigi

(Duc'd Abruzzi), London, Hutchinson, 1903. •

Centerfold

Ch. Silver Crest's Sikandi

February 1955 - October 1963

Breeders/Owners: Helene Spathold and Layard Spathold

Ch. Lucky Labon Nahum
White Frost's Tybo
Debra of Lucky Dee CD

Suzanne's Racier Suraine
Ch. White Beauty of Lucky Dee
Ch. Modoc of Lucky Dee



SIKANDI was a large bitch of about 23 inches. She was a Group placing bitch. She had 23 Bests of Breed in a row.

She was the dam of two top producing champions, Ch. Rokandi of Drayalene and Ch. Barceia's Shondi of Drayalene. •

The Art of Measuring and Assessing Dogs

Betty McHugh
Oshawa, Ontario

WE have been fortunate in the Toronto area to have available to us, for the last five or six years, a night school program in some of our community colleges called "Dogs - A Hobby or a Profession." This program is the brainchild of a frustrated breeder and exhibitor of Kerry Blue Terriers by the name of Catharine Gardiner. Appalled by the lack of knowledge available regarding a workable method of upgrading dogs, she set out to establish one of her own. Using existing methods established by the Holstein Breeders Association, who have graded their animals for physical attributes in relation to milk production for many years, and with the help of many people in dogs and other related professions, material was gathered for textbooks and courses. Of interest, the Kerry Blue Terrier remains to this day the only breed with a researched "norm." The Golden Retriever Club of Canada and the Siberian Husky Club of Canada both have draughts, but, unfortunately, the final adoption of these has been held up by breeders who are not a part of the program and have a fear of the unknown.

A "norm" (which should not be confused with, and is separate from, the breed standard) is by definition "A rule or authoritative standard; model; type; pattern." A norm is designed to serve as a guide for breeders, judges, geneticists, etc. It is a guide for evaluating the dogs and charting the results of the "Record of Characteristic" forms.

The original night school courses, which are available in four levels of twelve lectures each, have branched out to become a correspondence course of study under the name of "The School of Canine Science." This is also a manpower course now through Hamilton, Ontario Community College. Beginning at level 1 and progressing through to level 4, the course content includes The History of Man and Dog, which introduces a basic learning approach to the buying, raising and socialization of dogs,

genetics, parasitology, exercise, ownership responsibility and audiovisual recording of dogs. Further levels include an in-depth class in musculoskeletal and internal anatomy in relation to kinesiology and behavior.

Measuring, which is taught along with skeletal anatomy in level 2, provides a basis for learning to see and feel dogs, and provides an excellent method of keeping concise, easily interpretable records. To date, it is the only concrete method offered that will enable people interested in dogs to embark on a sensible approach to finding out how their breeds should be constructed in relation to the work they are to do. Dogs reproduce quickly, and measuring and keeping of records can be done on several generations within five years. Some years ago, one university study stated that six dedicated breeders, within a breed, keeping records such as these, could influence the entire breed on the North American continent.

When measuring a living animal, it is impossible to attain 100 percent accuracy; however, measuring produces a much sounder and more credible assessment than guessing.

Measurements are recorded on a Record of Characteristics form (ROC), which includes, in addition to over 70 different and separate measurements, an assessment of general appearance, temperament, coat, colour and gait. The Record of Characteristics forms provide the data which is so vital in conjunction with pedigrees and for choosing studs, breeding stock and breed research.

EVENTUALLY, if enough ROC forms are completed on Samoyeds, a norm for the breed could be established by breeders through a breed club. Then people, trained as graders, could be made available to go to kennels and measure and grade dogs against the norm. This program is at no time compulsory, and participation is by choice, even as it is in Holstein grading. Can you imagine the possibilities if Samoyeds could be graded all over the world as are herds of Holstein cattle? Ideally, at some time in the future, completed ROC forms, with the owners' signed per-

mission slips, could be stored on microfilm at some central location. The Holstein breeders have their records at the University of Guelph in Guelph, Ontario. Eventually, anyone looking for breeding stock could, upon payment of a fee, receive a printout on a potential stud or brood bitch, or, even more important, on their get, in order to choose a suitable addition to his breeding program. The breeding of only graded stock could drastically improve the mental and physical attributes of our Samoyeds.

Now, "What," you might ask, "does all this mean to an individual at the present time?" Breeders all have an idea of their ideal in their heads. Eyeset, coat type and texture, tailset, etc., are those things that are visible and easily assessed. However, few are the breeders who really understand what is ideal in functional skeletal anatomy and, even more important, how to truly evaluate it in our Samoyeds. There are about four breeders in southern Ontario carrying on a program such as I am going to describe.

At Nepachee, we measure and record the measurements of all adults (over two years of age). We have done so for some time. These records are used when planning breedings and our sled racing teams. Skeletal structure is inherited and can be predicted in puppies, when enough data is available on the ancestors of the parents. We have written records now, on one bloodline, going back six generations. The founder of this line was Can/Am Ch. Bai of Lucky Dee, imported by me in 1954. Although he himself was not measured, we have a good idea of his structure from his descendants. We also have data on several other bloodlines in this kennel going back three generations, with the fourth soon to be on the ground. All puppies born and raised at Nepachee are measured between seven and eight weeks of age. Six measurements are recorded and a general description of the puppies' skeletal anatomy is given. We have found that the ratios these puppies measure out at **AT THIS PERIOD ONLY** will be the same as when they are mature (after two years of age) ... if sensibly raised. There have been

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several exceptions when a new line was introduced, however. Generally, the puppies will deviate with regard to angulation and relation of bone lengths as they grow, but if we like a puppy at seven to eight weeks, then he stays to adulthood. We have not been disappointed often. This is not as easy as it appears, though, because we must know the skeletal anatomy of the parents and grandparents well.

SINCE skeletal structure is inherited, we breed only dogs that have been measured. When we find it necessary to go out for stud service, the stud that we are interested in is measured, along with his parents if possible. Only if this is allowed are final arrangements for a stud service made. We have, over the past few years, increased shoulder layback consistently from five to ten degrees. Since the better the layback, the longer the stride and the better the movement, the less amount of energy expended to cover a given distance, you can appreciate the importance of the program.

Although shoulder layback is the thing most often quoted, other measurements are of equal value. The measurement of the four long bones — the scapula, humerus, pelvis and femur — should be equal in order that the dog can achieve maximum movement and support when standing. The radius and ulna, or forearm, should be longer than the four bones mentioned above, and the fibula and tibia, or lower leg bones, even longer than the forearm. This is particularly important in our breed, because we are seeing too many Samoyeds that are short in leg and straight in stifle. They are beginning to resemble white Chows. If we do not understand what has created the problem, how can it be corrected? Through measuring, the answers are being found, but let's deal with that another time.

The scapula and humerus should meet at an angle of 90 degrees, as should the pelvis and femur, and the femur and fibula and tibia. The foregoing is, of course, ideal, and since we don't have many of those (we have found only one Samoyed so far), we learn the deviations from measuring and how to breed to overcome them. These are only a few of the over 70 measurements, but they should give you an idea of what we are doing.

Just as important as record keeping, measuring teaches the eye and hand to assess a dog quickly and accurately. This is important to the breeder, but can you imagine a more ideal way to learn to judge dogs? Since judges are allowed only two to three minutes to examine and place each dog, they must have a quick, accurate way to assess the mental and physical merits of the dogs before them.

The methods of measuring and recording discussed in this article are available in a textbook called "Dogs — A Hobby or Profession, Volume 2." The tools used are also available through The School of Canine Science, 4981 Appleby Line, RR #6, Milton, Ontario L9T 2Y1. The phone number is (416) 335-8093. •

Canine Myths

Lewis Hoehn
Lowell, Indiana

THROUGHOUT history, man has lived with many myths, both beneficial and harmful. Today, we are living, supposedly, in more enlightened times, but yet when it comes to the canine family, many breeders are still basing their breedings on what amounts to nothing more than old wives' tales or myths.

Examples of only a few of these myths are as follows:

A bitch bred to more than one stud will produce puppies that have more than one sire ...

It is quite possible that a bitch will accept more than one male and be bred by several males. However, even though the litter will possibly have more than one sire, NO one puppy will have more than one sire. Only the sire whose sperm fertilized the ovum will be the sire. NO single puppy obtains his or her genetic makeup from more than two parents or, in this case, from more than one male. Although it may be impossible to determine, on each puppy specifically, who the sire was, one can be assured that it is from only one male. This case of determination is much more difficult when both sires and dam are of the same breed.

Age of the breeding pair can effect the quality of the progeny ...

Many misconceptions exist here, in that it is often heard that it is most desirable to breed young dogs to aging bitches and vice versa. There has been no specific evidence to substantiate

this theory. If both parents are sexually mature, healthy and active, age short of impotency is not a consideration. There is absolutely no reason that progeny sired by a young male will be of lesser quality than waiting to breed that same male at a later age. In the May 1980 AKC Gazette, a chart showing the age of a dog to that of man was illustrated. Below is the comparison of this age correlation:

Age of Dog	Age of Man
1	15
2	24
3	28
4	32
5	36
6	40
7	44
8	48
9	52
10	56
11	60

If both parents are obedience trained, then the progeny of this mating will be ...

No training or conditioning is believed to be inherited. However, the instinct to point or herd can be inherited. These instincts have been developed through breeding for many years and can be transmitted from parents to successive generations. What is true is that in the case of both parents being obedience trained, what is passed onto the progeny is a trait of trainability. This is best evidenced by the results of the seeing-eye dogs being trained and bred at the San Rafael school. By testing progeny, at various ages up to twelve weeks in different categories,

the predictability of their passing is very high. Furthermore, by breeding these dogs of high test scores, the predictability is evidenced by these progeny being best trained and passing the seeing-eye training. The fact that a dog has a CD, CDX or UDT only proves that he or she was trainable.

A bitch shouldn't have two successive litters, sired by the same stud, no matter how successful the first was ...

It is true that, if excellent quality pups were produced by the first mating, the probability is such that the second would be as well. If only because top quality pups are few and far between. However, there is also no reason to expect that the second breeding wouldn't produce better. Due to the fact that the first breeding produced top quality is only proof that your reasons for doing this mating were sound. However, even with a tightly inbred breeding, the number of genes in the genetic pool are still astronomical. This may sound as if the above substantiates the above myth but, in actuality, the breeding of the bitch, in two successive times to the same stud, has no basis on the quality of the progeny produced.

Such-and-such stud dog produces large or small litters ...

This myth is absolutely false. The male's contribution in a breeding, other than fertilizing the ovum, is to contribute both an X and Y chromosome. This chromosome, when combined with the female's two X's, will only determine the sex of the progeny. Conversely, the bitch does not determine the sex of the progeny, but the size of the litter based upon the number of eggs dropped.

To obtain maximum coat, breed to a dog in coat ...

The only way to obtain coat or other qualities is to breed to a dog who is genetically dominant for coat. To wait to breed to the dog until he is in full coat means nothing. It is true, however, that, if the dog does carry a good coat, when he is in full coat, then the odds are in your favor that he will pass on this quality genetically.

Inbreeding will produce small litters, unsound temperaments ...

YES, this is true only if the breeder allows this to happen by not paying attention to each generation of breeding. However, this

can also happen with an outcross breeding. For example: If during an inbreeding program the number of pups produced by each successive generation is on the decline but is continued without regard to this telltale sign, then eventually the bitches will produce little or none, as this genetic makeup of the number of eggs the

bitch drops will become a dominant gene. It is especially important when inbreeding to constantly be on the lookout for certain undesirables which may appear. However, the above statement is false, but it is true that indiscriminate inbreeding will produce small litters and/or unsound temperaments. •

Boring, Boring, Boring!

Jeanne Nonhof
Waldo, Wisconsin

SITTING in a kennel all day long is boring. Boring, boring, BORING! Nothing but cement or gravel and wire. Almost as bad as those dogs you hear about in the puppy mills. Nothing to do! Nothing but bark at anything within sight that moves. Or, if I can get the fellow in the next kennel going, we can have a fence fight to break the monotony. Oh! I can just feel my mind stagnating!"

Think about it! How much time do your dogs spend alone in their kennels. In most families, the man works one or two jobs; almost 50 percent of the women in the United States hold jobs outside the home, and the children are off to school. Nobody at home!

From the time Sammy puppies are three weeks old, their little doggy minds need stimulation. A radio in the whelping box area (preferably a rock station) will get them used to all kinds of noises. Knotted ropes make good chew and pull toys. Providing you can keep their mother from gobbling them all up, rawhide bones are good – not the pup chews which are round and quickly get chewed down small enough for the puppy to attempt to swallow and choke on. We suggest, instead, the larger "bone-shaped" rawhide chews, and then take them away when they get small.

Tennis balls seem to go over well with the little tykes too. They bounce well and come in different colors. The furry texture turns pups on. We gener-

ally hang a tennis ball from the ceiling so it hangs just about nose level. The pups bump it and chase it as it swings back and forth, try to grab it and tug on it. This is really a good coordination developer.

The hard rubber, almost indestructible balls are wonderful not only for pups but the adults get good tooth and jaw exercise with these. Our own personal experience shows the type made by Flexi-grip to be superb. Simply get one large enough so it won't get swallowed and you should have it for years.

For pups, Mason jar rings make lovely noises when dropped and are fun to pick up and run around with. They roll nicely too.

Washed plastic gallon milk jugs make good temporary toys. Gallon bleach jugs (well washed, of course) with a couple of pebbles inside to make noise are a little sturdier and the pups love them. Of course, this has its pitfalls. One of our pups so loved plastic things to haul around that none of our sprinkling cans are safe anymore.

You can make the time your Sammies have to spend in the kennels more interesting. We have a slatted wooden bench about twelve inches high with one slanted side and one open side. The pups love it. They lay on top for a better view of their world. They crawl underneath it for naps and as sun protection. They learn to handle slopes on the slanted end and jump on and off for good muscle development.

Another thing I have heard works for both puppies and adult dogs is

putting a large chimney tile or flue in the kennel. Same principal: climb over and under, chase around and nap in. Even a big boulder to chase around is better than an empty square kennel run. After all, what's a dog to do when left alone all day?

If you have two dogs that get on well, two dogs in one kennel isn't crowding – it's companionship. Generally, a male and a female together is your best bet for compatibility. And a younger dog will frequently keep an older dog young. Just don't let the young one wear the elderly one to a nubbin.

ONE of the problems in our breed seems to be the "knuckle or knee chewer." Yes, I know that dogs don't have knees, but you know what I mean. Some say this is an inherited trait, while others say they are bored. Some dogs will do it when totally frustrated. Sometimes the companion mentioned above can help. Sometimes spraying with Bitter Apple or a like awful tasting thing works.

Frequently, keeping them busy works, and that is where some of the above mentioned toys come in.

And speaking of chew preventers, puppies have an insatiable desire to chew when teething. Play it safe and use this yukky tasting stuff on your electrical cords. Prevent an accident!

When it comes to toys for puppies, there is little that beats good old mom for playing and teaching. Sometimes it looks like the old gal is being awfully rough on her babies, but if you keep watching, you will see the method to her madness. She is always teaching them something. But she needs to be able to escape from those little brutes, too, when she gets tired, so you'll have to be careful about that.

The second best thing for puppies and adults alike to play with is children. Our pups have always been well socialized and we called them "kid broke." Well, they teethed on our girls' hair and sneakers, learned to be wrapped up and sit in ye olde doll buggy, and run and tear around and roll on the grass and walk on a lead,

and every bit of it was great fun. I always expected my girls to have double pierced ears from those little needlelike puppy teeth. Every single puppy learned about grooming when the girls used the baby powder on them – clouds and clouds of baby powder all over my basement. Each puppy became instantly irresistible whenever one of the kids walked by the puppy pen. Hugs and kisses were dispensed liberally by both sides. And each kid, in turn, learned about the responsibility of closing kennel doors, keeping those pups out of mom's flower beds, etc.

But the bestest puppy toy of all is you! Your experience and time spent with the pups will pay dividends later. But don't forget the older dogs. They need their share of attention too. So when you get home from work, tired and grumpy, get into your grubbies and go out and play with your dogs. It's good for them and you, too. Think about the amount and quality of time that you spend with your dogs. It's important to their well-being. Their sun rises and sets on you. Think about it. •

Centerfold

Ch. Cnejinka

January 19, 1959 – May 30, 1971

Breeders: Barbara J. and Raimond F. Clary, Jr. Owners: Harold and Doris M. McLaughlin

Soldier Frosty of Rimini

Ch. Omak

Samoyland Verla's Tula

Ch. Omak of Whitecliff

Ch. Petra of Valiki

Princess of Valiki

Samoyland's Frosty's Natusha

Ch. Omak

Chomak of Valiki

Queen Snowfoot

Belkina of Kanin CD

Frosty Boy of Samoyland

Frostena Valiki

Siskiyou

THE most outstanding thing about "Jinka," the foundation bitch of Silveracres, was her puppies. She produced only fifteen puppies during her twelve years at Silveracres, but ten are AKC champions. She did produce one other litter before coming to Silveracres, but we could never learn anything about that

litter and what happened to it. Of her ten AKC champions, six were Group placing dogs. All fifteen of Jinka's get received their OFA normal certification.

Jinka was a very primitive bitch. The natural instincts of the wild animal were very active in Jinka. She weaned her puppies just as the wild

animals do – when the puppies were ready for solid food she would regurgitate her own food. Jinka also always taught her puppies to hunt at every opportunity.

Jinka was always the leader of the pack at Silveracres. No one ever doubted that. •