

WESTERN KENNEL WORLD

NOVEMBER

35c

1951



The German Shepherd Dog—DUNHILL OF APTOS—Best of Breed at Sacramento 1950 Show. Judge, Mrs. Lillian Miller. Handler, Noel P. Jones. Owner, Frank Elliott, 836 So. Michigan, Chicago, Illinois.

Samoyeds

By Vera Lawrence
610 Colusa Avenue, Berkeley, Calif.

The following article, written some years ago, is reproduced from the Silver Jubilee Year Booklet of the British Samoyed Association.

"A Brief Samoyed Outline and a Few Hints Which May Prove Useful to Many Novice Member-owners." By J. V. Thomson Glover.

"One of, if not the oldest, of breeds, our dogs have come to us unchanged through the ages. Living in the chooms (tents of reindeer skin); treated as one of the family by the nomadic Samoyed folk; as prized by them as our Scots, Collies and other clever herd dogs. This largely accounts for their extreme sweetness in disposition. Work in their native land, the vast tundra country, stretching along the Arctic ocean shores, from the White Sea to the Yenisei river, consists mainly of herding the fast-moving reindeer, hauling sledges for shorter distances, when the reindeer are not always used, hunting the bear—dangerous job, demanding courage, agility and brains. The Samoyed people depended for almost every essential on their reindeer.

"A proportion of our Samoyed dogs were imported here direct from Russia, a great number from various Polar expeditions. Many of those in the background of all our modern winners were born on expeditions.

"Explorers would choose the lighter, swifter, more tractable dog in preference to the heavier, oft uncertain-tempered breeds, or the husky (any dog with a certain percentage of wolf blood). It is important to bear in mind that there are a number of Northland breeds, including several in other parts of immense Russia, which have prick ears, curled bushy tails and further points in common, but which are definitely not Samoyeds. Most of these lack the intense beauty and grace, often lagging far behind in character and quickness in intelligence. Mr. Kilbourn Scott brought his first Samoyed 'Sabarka' to England in 1889, changing the local name to 'Laika' meaning 'barking dog' to that of the Samoyed tribe. It is interesting that the Russian musical instrument which has recently taken London by storm is called a 'bala-laika'. One of the Kilbourn Scott's Samoyeds which enters in most pedigrees and was shown before the last war, was called 'Laika.'

In earlier years the word 'Samoyed' was more often spelled with the final 'e'. So anxious was Mrs. Kilburn Scott to preserve the true type and purity of the breed that I have known her to buy Spitz, or some perhaps half-bred Samoyeds, to sell at a complete loss, or to give as pets solely on condition that none were bred

from. Nor would Mrs. Kilburn Scott accept any Samoyed for her kennels which did not conform to the standard that had been carefully drawn up, and remains—practically unchanged—as our guide today.



Some of the Kobe-line pups on the lawn in front of their barn at Encino. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Tucker, owners.

Due to this constant care on the Kilburn Scott's part, followed up by that of other experienced breeders, the HIGHEST type of Samoyed has changed but little, despite odd comments to that effect made at intervals. A number of owners must be reminded of their own lovely bitches, looking at the charming small Samoyed depicted with the late Major Jackson, the famous explorer, president of the Samoyed Association, and one of its judges (this photo and a second, from one of the numerous perpetual trophies). A photo of Ch. Olaf Oussa, notable as being taken at the time he won the first challenge certificate on offer for Samoyeds, in 1904, might well be that of 'Silver Spray' (litter brother of Ch. Edelweiss and U. S. A. Storm Cloud). Queen Alexandra, a great lover of dogs, possessed a typical Samoyed in 'Jacko'. He, mated to Kilburn Scott stock, produced winners, the names appear in most pedigrees today. Space will not permit mention of all of our imported Samoyeds, but 'Antarctic Buck' cannot be omitted. Used on the Southern Cross expedition, he was afterwards

seen by the Kilburn Scotts in the Sydney Zoo (companion to a tiger!). Only after much persuasion, a short time before the steamer sailed. Buck came into their possession. After creating a sensation at his first few shows, and siring two or three litters only, 'Buck', aged seven years, unfortunately contracted distemper and died. His influence, however, soon became apparent.

"Before the last great war, Samoyeds were rapidly gaining in popularity and numbers: with representatives in all parts of Great Britain. But it was no simple matter to restart. The Kennel Club ban during the later stages had brought breeding almost to a standstill (dogs born during that period could never compete for prizes, and, for a time, even registration was refused them). Exhibitors had been killed, injured, or retired in several cases. We were tried too, with personal anxiety and strenuous war work of different kinds. A number of dogs had grown too old for breeding purposes, while others, of middle age, but unused, refused to mate. Amongst those remaining the choice was far from a big one. Had the association not come forward, with its then greatly reduced membership, progress would have been nearly at a standstill and years passed ere the breed won back its pre-war status.

The association, a mere handful of old members, shouldered the whole responsibility for anything from two to six classes all over the country, including Manchester and Birmingham, though losses were heavy and most of the entries were from the South, without calling on new members for guarantees or specials. It was the championship shows (with the higher prize money and risk of loss) upon which we had to concentrate. Otherwise the Challenge Certificate allotted by the Kennel Club would have been quickly decreased, for it was upon the number of individual dogs entered at those shows and the yearly breed registrations alone that the allowance of Challenge Certificates were based. Entries, however numerous, at non-championship shows, Open, Members, or Local, did not count. To divide the sexes and have several easy classes in addition, invariably meant facing a big deficit. Most Samoyeds owned by the committee had long since become ineligible for all except limit and open classes, and the bitch classes were seldom filled. None of us grudged this, as it did give the novice owners their chances and brought new exhibitors into the breed. Names which stood out during those difficult, critical years (as they had in the earlier ones) should never be forgotten. They are those of Mrs. Kilburn Scott, Miss Elizabeth Gerrard, Mrs. Stuart Thynne and Mrs. Cammack.

SAMOYEDS



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Some truly magnificent Samoyeds appeared in the show ring at that time and never has competition been more keen. Then, about fifteen to twenty years ago, instead of continuing to go from strength, the breed, taken as a whole, seemed to fall from their high estate. The only reason I can give for this decline in quality, is lack of knowledge and indiscriminate breeding and judging. But it did not cause grave concern among the elders.

Fortunately this stage did not last very long; even then here were exceptions which stood out, and, for half-a-dozen years or so before the outbreak of this war, Samoyeds were improving again on type and soundness.

Now we are at the cross-roads once more. There are doubtless numbers of fine, very good, medium and indifferent Samoyeds scattered all over the country. I have, in the last five years, seen some in each of these categories. There are their virtues and there are their failings to consider. Although I do not know why several faults cropped up in the latter half of the '20s, I do know which Samoyeds handed these on, and it will need the utmost care when breeding if these are to be eradicated. Wishful thinking (in its one sense possibly a virtue akin to faith), unaccompanied by practical diligence will not serve to benefit the breed. Few people connected with Samoyeds in these days appear anxious to state exactly what a noted dog is like, including judges and reporters. Samoyeds, fine in most respects, yet with faults which simply 'hit one in the eye', are described frequently as 'hard to fault'. I always ponder 'Why?' Whether the 'hard' part is lack of courage, knowledge or observation? At any rate, it is far from helpful. Dogs and bitches with the self same faults may be mated together. This done, generation after generation, leads to a minor fault in one animal alone becoming more and more pronounced and hereditary.

Our standard is clear. To those who wish to maintain it, I would say 'study it often and intently.' Go over each point in your stock and see if it tallies. Pedigrees are of much value and interest, not just as a collection of names, but as a guide to inherent characteristics owned by

or handed on by the forebears of your Samoyeds. Photos also can be of aid, although not always reliable in every respect, and it must be remembered that the canine photography of twenty to fifty years back had not become the fine art it has since.



Mr. and Mrs. Jack Alger's Ch. Frost King II First in the Working Group at Spokane, Wash.

The average novice, I have always found, is clear-sighted, with opinions which interest. He or she may fear in their heart that his or her beloved beautiful Samoyed does fail in some feature; and how much better and entertaining it is to see one's own dogs as they actually are than through a dim roseate haze. But long come probably well-intended but misguided folk, who describe almost all Samoyeds, including the novice-owned, as 'Perfect', 'Faultless', 'Marvelous', 'Outstanding', etc. etc. Then it is that the novice may cease to use his own good common sense, and take the 'wrong turning'. If an exceedingly rare event does happen in that

a dog does attain true perfection, I can assure novices that to reach such a pinnacle once again is well nigh impossible.

Suppose that as a beginning you have bought a young male and a young female puppy. The former perhaps does not equal his parents in merit as he grows up, or proves a late developer. In either case, should you be anxious to breed from the female when between a year and eighteen months, I would advocate postponing the mating to your dog and sending her instead to the best stud dog available. Always provided that the pedigrees are suitable (inbreeding is best left to experts) and that he is quite free from any failing your bitch possesses. From that litter retain the most promising bitch puppy, to mate later to your dog (probably much developed and improved by then). Her dam also can be mated to him, or, if you have had an exceptionally fine litter, it is often wiser to repeat the same mating. Luck enters into breeding as in all things, but, in the long run, it is the most considered matings which make for future well-being of any breed.

Second only to this problem, is that of the judge, who can do much towards the making or marring of Samoyeds. However tempted, never show under one you dream may be remotely unfair, ignorant of or heedless of the standard. Such a one gaily describes an exhibit as having 'a nice short back' is not following it. Far from being 'nice' a short back is wrong as it is a long back. Breed stress is laid on 'medium' for back, size and foreface. Do not be misled by remarks as to the typical well-padded, thickly tufted feet being a show point, cultivated in this country, for the opposite holds good. Each single Samoyed imported, which I have seen, had these feet in a marked way, and handed on this characteristic feature to the following generations. One of my Samoyeds had a dam imported straight from Russia (Miss Thompson-Glover here refers to her Ch. Nada, daughter of Snow Cloud and the imported Ayesha), and in those early days all my Samoyeds were a few generations only from various imported dogs and bitches. Much later I was given one from an imported grand-dam (here she refers to Karen of Wealdland, whose grand-dam was the imported Kaza of Farningham)—her feet were re-

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markable (as were her sire's) (note, the sire was Kosko of Farningham) and her son at his first show won a special 'for feet', under one of our greatest experts of all time. Nature, and nature alone, is responsible for these feet, which are needed for herding, hunting, or hauling on rough icy surfaces.

Let people wonder why I have been asked to write, I may add the following, for my name is scarcely known to new comers.

My first Samoyed, bought as a seven weeks puppy in 1911, won a challenge certificate at his (and my) first show. It will surprise people to learn that the entry, over seventy, has not often been passed at the show (the Ladies Kennel Association) even in the 1930's. (note that puppy was Snow Cloud, grandson of Antarctic Buck). The first puppy I bred equalled this feat, with her kennel mate, also a puppy, as runner up. Next year, again at Cruft's, a member of the third litter bred here, narrowly beat a member of the second litter for the challenge certificate. Both dogs were twelve months old. Others of mine, which have won honors at an early age were able to win challenge certificates, best of sex, and best of breed, when from nine to eleven years old. Luck—maybe? But with much effort and thought in addition. Two or three nights ago, thought I would jot down the number of times my Samoyeds came in a pedigree, I was glancing at. When I reached eighty, I thought it was time to stop and go to bed.

Time has not only intensified an interest, keen from the start, and one has always something fresh to learn as years go by. When, after many years absence from the show ring (apart from judging) I decided to exhibit once in 1942 I was prepared to take a back seat. However, my young home-bred dog, besides being best of breed at the Association's show and winning specials for the different breed features, was acknowledged generally as the best conditioned and best groomed dog present."

AMONG OUR FOLKS

Last month we told you that Lois Rayner and her sister Lillian, and their two Sams, Ch. Chinde of Caspar and his young daughter Metel (out of the late Ch. Dushka of Altai) had left California for a sojourn in New England.

Lois writes that they had an enjoyable trip east—seeing some Sammies on the way. They stopped to visit with the Ralphs and their Katje and her pals in Salt Lake City. They also saw Rex Kanouse's dogs in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. Then they "took a turn" through Rocky

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Mountain National Park and up to Laramie, Wyoming to see Ann Winslow and her dogs. Lois spoke of one particularly gay and joyous looking young bitch called Patty (this is Juliana's Princess Patryska, daughter of Snowcrest's Kuban of Kobe out of Juliana of Kobe.)

Patty has lots to recommend her, plenty of the joy of life (personality) very beautiful feathering, nice bone, good head and so on.

Lois' description of the autumn coloring which is everywhere in the east now—made me long for those strolls in the autumn-tinted woods and fields which Nannuk and I used to so enjoy years ago — back in Washington, D. C.

Writes Lois—"the dogs love this side hill home of ours (in Vermont) they love the green grass that is everywhere — Chinde never asks to come into the house — but Metel is less assured — she likes to know where her family is — and what the members are doing."

Lois tells us also that Lt. Donald Smith had his "Princess" sent down from Butte, Montana to be bred to Chinde while still in California. Princess is with May Pridham in Southern California, where she whelped a litter of four dogs and two bitches on August 31. The pups may be seen at May Pridham's kennels in Glendora, California.

The snapshot sent us by "Billy" (Mrs. Charles) Tucker of Encino, showing a group of her "Kobe" bred Sams shows a most delightful-looking kennel yard — in which the dogs run together many hours of the day.

As you will note in Mrs. Tucker's ad., there are Sammy pups at Encino, which will be the ideal age for Christmas gifts.

Belenki, staying with Mrs. Tucker for a time) has a nice litter of six by Kobe-Sur-Raff, while Mrs. Tucker's Polar Dawn, daughter of Belenki by Ch. Guardian of the Arctic, has a nice litter of four.

Mrs. Edwin Adams of Los Angeles, kindly sent us a most interesting bit of news — which can give Sam owners a thrill of pride.

A male Sam — named Prince Misty — owned by Patricia Patterson of Harbor City was high scoring dog of the day at the Pasanita Obedience Club show at Pasadena on September 30.

He was entered in Novice A—and made the outstanding score of 199. That is the kind of win that will bring honor to our breed, for in obedience work the dog either does as called upon to do — making his score — or else he flunks out. There is no question about it — and we are happy to salute Patricia and her Prince Misty for an excellent exhibit. Obedience training is a good sport where nothing counts but how well the dog performs. Mrs. Adams tells us too that the Charles Burrs' Chastuska of Encino, C. D. is now working for her CDX degree. The two young males are going to start class just as soon as possible to work for their

SAMOYEDS OF ENCINO



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C. D. We wish them the best of luck in their endeavor.

writes of success in selling puppies. Her Dondianes Siberian Ranook (Roth's Ch. Jaytees Kharkov of Rothridge ex Dondianes Siberian Lasha) brother to the E. C. Strong's Ch. Marka and Linde's Kulan, was entered in the Cincinnati dog show in June — making a major win of 3 points, going over several experienced show dogs.

There were many Sam owners, I know, who noticed the Sam sled team pictured in a copy of the Saturday Evening Post and bearing the caption of a malemute team. I doubt, however, if any besides Mrs. Duffy had the foresight to write the advertising company which had made the error. The replies which she received from the company — and which we were privileged to read — were most satisfactory. Thanks to Mrs. Duffy for her proven interest in the welfare of our Samoyeds.

In Rochester, Illinois, Mrs. Cecil Laughery's Kolita's litter of seven, whelped July 23rd, have all gone to new homes with the exception of two, which will leave shortly, if they are not already gone by the time you read this. There is a possibility there will be another litter ready for Christmas gift delivery.

A very interesting study of sizes in our winning Pacific Coast Sams has been made by one of our Pacific Coast members, name withheld by request.

"We have found that the champion males out here are NOT as large as had been thought. Lucky Labon is the largest male champion we have measured. Chat, Raini, Kunto, Chinde, Prince, Chattigan, Bunky, Nick of White Way, Tagenrod etc., are all 22½ or under. The bigger ones have not done as well at the shows.

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The local dog who finished at Santa Monica, Snow Boots (Snohomish ex Morozko's Pola) is said to be about 23½ and has been shown for over a year. On the other hand, all of the winning bitches are 21 or over — Faith, Trooperine Suzanne, Dushka, Startinda, Faustina, Vrai etc were over 21 — as are Ch. Kunto's Palana and Ch. White Mesa. Belenki is 20½, Crystal 19½, Pixie is 20 5/8. (We might mention that Crystal's 'Mom' Lensen was 20¾). Suretta was over 21.

"So it would seem that judging by the dogs out here that there is too much difference in the top of the standard between the males and bitches. A 21 inch bitch and a 23½ inch male just wouldn't make a well balanced looking pair.

"If the increase in size has been due to more scientific feeding and California sunshine, why haven't the males increased as much as the females?

SOME SHOW REPORTS

Yonkers show—9/8/51. Winners Dog and Best of Winners, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Stukey's Tazon's Snow King (Tazon ex Snowbelle). Mr. and Mrs. A. U. Ulfeng, breeders. Reserve Winner was Frank Gianninoto's Park Cliffe Kris Kringle (Siberian Chinkie ex Park Cliffe White Ginger. Winners bitch was Snowcrest Kennels' Snowcrest's Norna (Ch. Valdina of Snowland ex Ch. Barkeeta of Snowland. Br. Ow. Reserve Winner was Mr. and Mrs. Ulfeng's Snowbelle III—(br. ow) by Ch. Martingate Snowland Taz ex Snowbelle. Best of Breed—Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Ulfeng's Ch. Tazon (Ch. Martingate Snowland Taz ex Snowbelle. Best Opposite Sex, Ch. Tazon's Snow Flicka. (same owners). Judge was Clifford H. Chamberlain.

The following day Judge Joseph C. Quirk judged Sams at Rye, New York. The Dog class winners and results were the same as at Yonkers. In bitches winners bitch was Catharine S. Quereaux' and Lucile Miller's Ada of Snowland (imp.) by Mrs. Ada Westcott's Snowland Fyodor out of Snowland Vana. Reserve Winners bitch was Frank W. Dart's Juneau by Mrs. Seekins "Chump" ex Siberian Nicasha.

Best of Breed and Best Opposite sex were the same as the Yonkers show.

Sam Club Meeting

On Sunday, September 23, a group of Northern California members of the Samoyed Club

of America, Pacific Coast Division, met at the Pet Palace on Union Street—operated and owned by Mr. and Mrs. John Poletti of S. F. and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Witcher of Vallejo. The short informal meeting was taken charge of by Walter Scott of San Jose, Vice-President of the Pacific Coast Division, with Robert Schmidling of San Francisco acting as Secretary.

We might add that at times Mr. Scott found it hard to make himself heard because of the interruptions made by the raucous laughing of the Poletti's Mynah bird, which seemed to know just when to put in his "nickel's worth." Of course, this caused the meeting to enjoy the interruptions. However, the program which followed was most interesting—when Tommy Witcher a former trainer of dogs for the Army—and now a local trainer and handler—gave a demonstration of how to groom your Sam for the show ring, using none other than Mr. and Poletti's beautifully-trained Ch. Samoyland's Sergei (Soldier Frosty of Rimini ex Samoyland's Verla's Tula) Sergei, better known as Gilroy, is a C. D. Sammy and is now working on his CDX toward the U. D. degree, under the careful handling of Tommy.

Following the meeting, Mrs. Poletti and Mrs. Witcher served refreshments to the members.

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its attention to the interests of dog lovers— One feature that particularly drew attention was the panel of dog photos which extended across the room just above the doorways. There were dogs of many breeds—gifts for the most part— with of course a preponderance of Sam photos—donated by local Sammy owners. We might add, that if there's anything you wish for your dog—foods, toys, leashes—even books for your enjoyment—you may buy it at the Pet Palace. Why not go see for yourself.

Well folks—there's Ventura coming up—followed by the Fresno show with a marvelous trophy list—but most important of all, the Annual meeting of the Pacific Coast Division will take place Saturday night previous to the show.

If I don't get to see you there—may I remind you that we can still receive late entries for our Sammy section in our Christmas Annual of WKW.

May we wish you all a Very Happy Thanksgiving. Yours—V. L.

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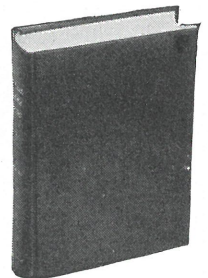
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