

THE SAMOYED QUARTERLY

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Samoyed people

The Samoyed Quarterly
Talks with
Jack and Amelia Price
BUBBLING OAKS
Commack, New York

Part II

This interview was conducted at the home of Jack and Amelia Price in August of 2000 by Alona Robison.

In your breeding program, and when you were breeding for the show ring did you also breed with the working dog in mind?

Jack: That was the only way to breed. In the beginning, we did not know about sledding. Later on, if a dog wouldn't run on a sled team he moved on. Camshaft is an example of work and show. His AKC name was Ch. Camshaft of Bubbling Oaks. He won the 6-9 Puppy class at the SCA Specialty and PVSC Specialty, WD at the Garden, won BOBs and Group placings, but spent most of his life as wheel dog on my sled team and won many weight pulls. Both Camshaft, my wheel dog and Krypto, one of my lead dogs had big show wins and produced champion get; but they also were on the team that won the SCA Top Sled Team award and the Organization for the Working Samoyed Top Team in '85, the OWS Top Team in '86 and the SCA Top Team in '87. Both dogs ran the Molson Mormora Classic at least three times, were the first Samoyed team to do that and even completed that race once in a blizzard.

So the two are hand in hand - the show dog and the working dog?

Amelia: Yes, because if you don't have the structure in the Breed ring you don't have the structure to do the work. If that dog isn't totally balanced, forget it.

Jack: Actually, in this breed the most important word that describes this breed is medium - non-extreme - medium. That's the key. They are supposed to be medium sized, have medium bone, have medium length muscle, medium angulation, everything is supposed to be medium. If you have a big dog that's not

good. If you have a small dog that's not good. Too much coat is not good. Too little coat is not good. A dog with a long muzzle is not good. A dog with a short muzzle is not good. Everything about this dog is medium. They should have



more angulation than a Malamute, but less angulation than a Siberian Husky. They should have a longer back than a Malamute, but a shorter back than a Siberian Husky. It's not supposed to be as fast as a Siberian Husky or as strong as a Malamute. It's supposed to be in between. That's the key to our breed ... medium. You see a Samoyed with legs six inches across and they're overdone. If the legs are one inch wide the dog is underdone. A fat and chunky muzzle is not good for this breed. A pointy muzzle is not good. The only thing that is not supposed to be medium on our breed is their eye color. The eye color should be as dark as it can get. Other than eye color everything else is supposed to be medium. We see people who have bred extreme angulation into their dogs, but they don't increase the length of the back, so the dogs are always crossing under themselves. Years ago some breeder from Canada was promoting his animals as having a flying trot. It was simply good angulation and too short a back.

Amelia: After Jack got into the sledding, we started advertising our dogs as a show and working kennel. Many other folks had tried before us to promote the working aspects of the breed to the fancy. At first, most people kind of laughed at the pictures of our dogs covered in mud or with little booties on their feet, but then the idea started to take hold among the members. Sams were not just for show. Some started to advertise

were much more than just pretty show dogs.

Jack: I guess after awhile I began to get annoyed with the judging and grooming. We only specialized three bitches, Bubbles, Me Too and Foxy. Foxy was only out for about a month, but we put Group wins on all three. We put championships on lots of Sams, but they were not specialized. They stayed home, as pets, and ran on my teams all groomed and bathed. Regardless of whether the dog was with a handler, or with me, it had to be immaculately perfect, and until you've seen one of mine groomed, you don't know what that is. When we first started showing in the early '70s, the typical bath for a Samoyed was a pound of baby powder or a pound of cornstarch brushed into the coat. They also brushed the coat a little bit. The undercoat was usually full of straw, dirt and just about anything else. Most were never bathed and their coats were yellow looking.

So what is your routine for dog shows?

Amelia: Our dogs were always bathed. This line carries the silver tip, and when they were bathed you could see the silver on the tips. The other dogs weren't bathed like ours, and you couldn't see the silver, even if they had it. I really enjoyed the grooming. Jack liked the handling, but I enjoyed the grooming. When our dogs went to a show they were totally groomed like a dog would be groomed today for a show. I spent hours getting them ready. Joy Brewster would look at Bubbles and think she was ready for the ring. As far as I was concerned, the bitch was not ready. I needed another hour and a half or two hours to get every single hair in place.

Jack: I would go and check the dog to make sure he looked like he was supposed to. That's the first rule - he must look like he's supposed to look.

Amelia: Fortunately, we didn't have to reconstruct our dogs.

Jack: Right, but almost every dog needed some little something. We didn't sculpt our dogs, we groomed them.

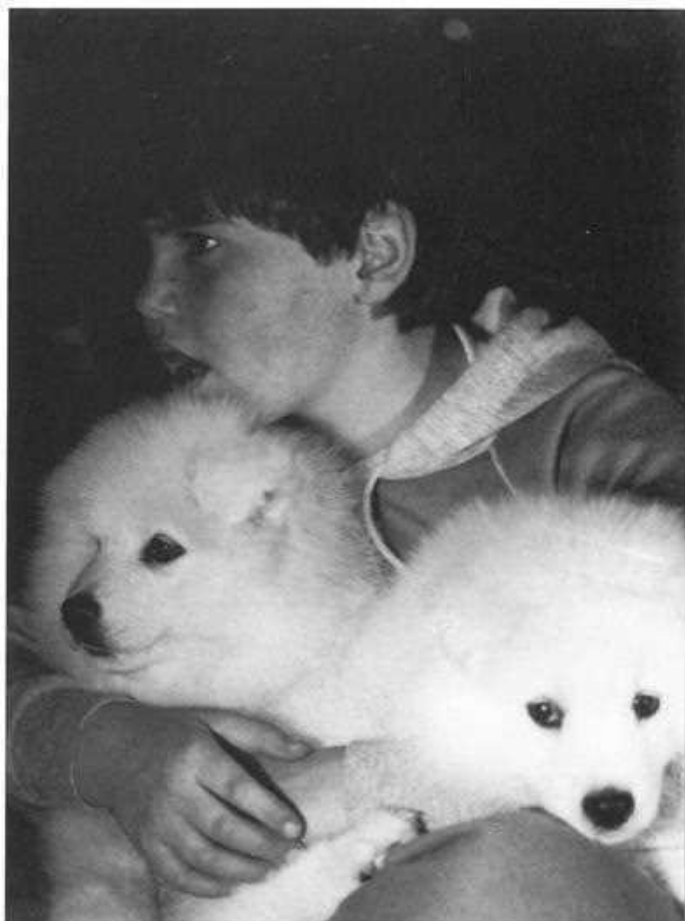
Amelia: Basically, it's like a hairdo. We know what looks good on us. Every dog is an individual and when you look at

their working achievements. The working title awards were added to SCA and it opened up the door for people to realize that the Breed really was a working breed. Politically incorrect Jack and some other board members worked to establish the first Sled Dog classes at the specialty, and now, we have working classes and working activities. Sam people have learned there is so much more enjoyment with the breed if you can participate in another activity or sport with the dog. They can do agility, herding, sledding and obedience. The breed is so versatile and adaptable to any lifestyle or any type of activity. When we first got into Samoyeds everything was about show. Some breeders acted like obedience people were nothing. They looked down on tracking and herding dogs. We are so pleased that the breed has become recognized as a more multifaceted animal.

That was the real reason Jack put in ten years of grueling work and took all that abuse. He truly felt the breed was being shortchanged and Samoyeds



Amelia and Ean James Price.



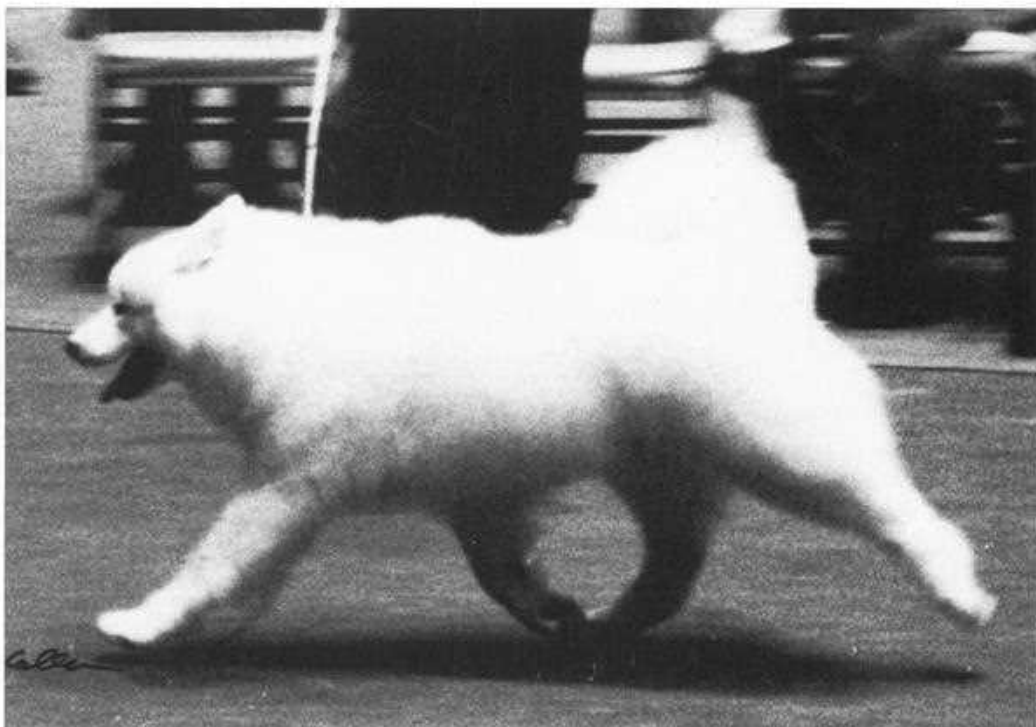
Ean James Price and "Lover" and "Fingernibbles" (Ch. Suffolk Woby Buby of Oakwood TT x Bubbling Oaks Vanilla Shake).

the dog there are certain places where I would arrange the hair a little differently. The only trimming we did was on the feet.

Jack: One of my major fights with Nancy Martin was over Me Too and her cape, which is the area over the shoulders at the withers. It breaks up a bitch. If you remove the cape, it looks a lot smoother. Nancy had gotten rid of Me Too's cape. A Samoyed bitch is supposed to have a cape, and if I was a judge I would disallow any bitch, if she didn't have a cape. I told her I'd take her home until it grew back in. That's how I was.

Amelia: To me, grooming is an enhancement of the best qualities of an animal while minimizing any faults, but not creating a whole new outline. Sometimes I feel responsible for the extremes breeders go to with their dog, because I really was one of the first ones to really groom these dogs for a show. When we went to a show, we always showed other people how to groom the dogs. I showed them what I did, how I did it, what products I used and what equipment I used. Jack came home one day with a blower, and once I got that blower in my hand I was gone! I can remember taking a dog that looked almost bald, and I worked on that dog for an hour and a half to two hours with that blower. When I was done

every hair on its body stood up and the dog looked like it was in full coat. I remember going to a specialty where a dog had a huge chunk of hair missing on its hindquarter, and there was a big hole. I fixed the dog up, and we got an Award of Merit on that dog. It was a breeder-judge, and he never even noticed the hip. That's how good I got at grooming.



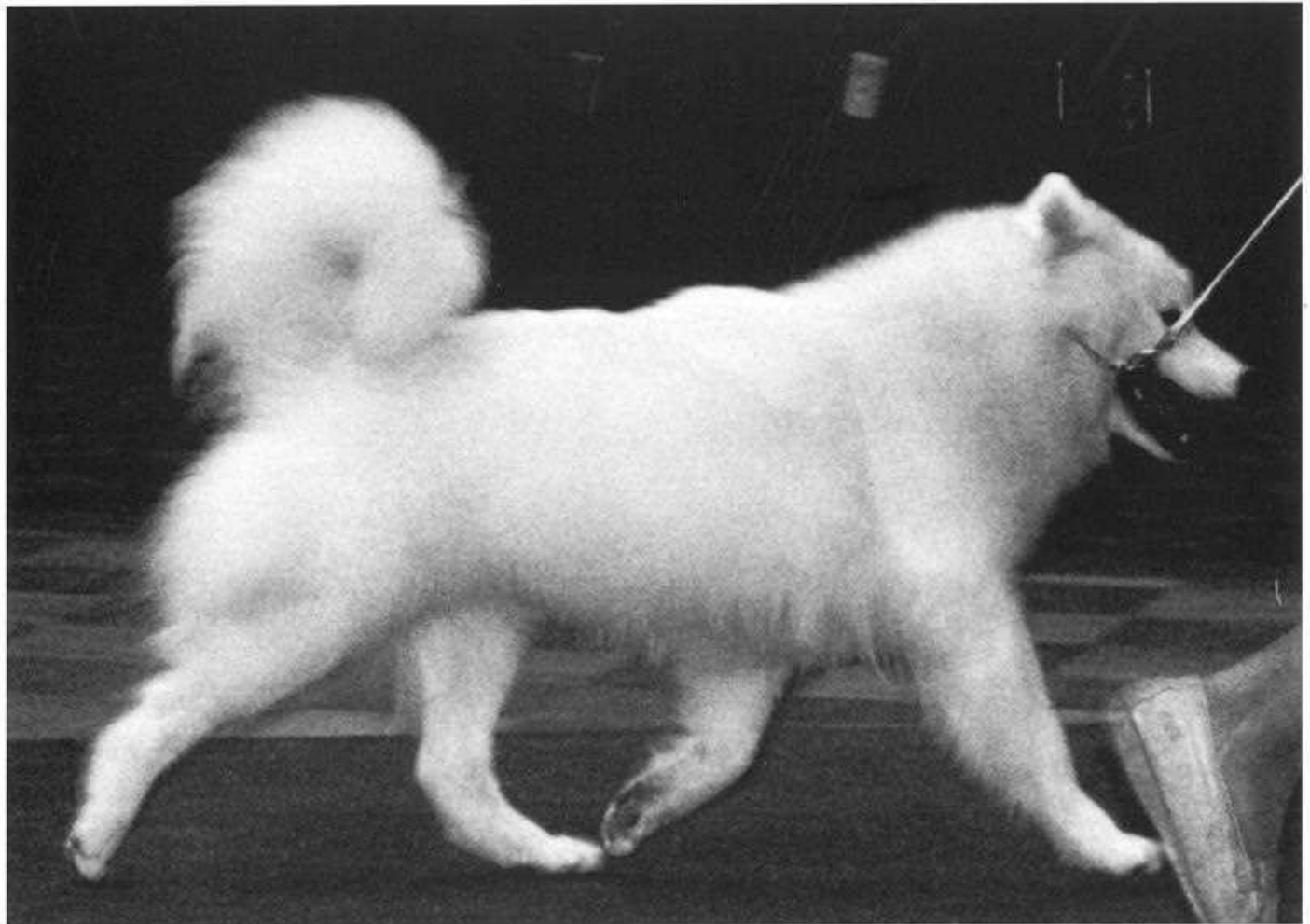
Ch. Me Too of Bubbling Oaks.



Poison Ivy with Amelia right after she was injured by a steel trap.



Reflections on a dishwasher - (left) Fatso, (far right) Ch. Bubbling Oaks the One & Only, "Babyface" (Bubbles' granddaughter).



Poison Ivy of Bubbling Oaks (Ch. Jomay's Huggycub x Am/Can Ch. Bubbles La Rue of Oakwood) first place Sled Bitch, SCA '82.

Do you want to give away any secrets?

Amelia: I've already given most of them away. The point is that it has gone too far.

Jack: Did you know there is no such thing as a pure white dog? Before they had all these fancy shampoos, we used to use

Ivory Snow and Francis Bluing to make them look whiter.

Amelia: Also, Roux, White Minx. Samoyeds have a problem with the coats: Just from being in the sunlight, their coats yellow. Every dog in the ring would be yellow. Under indoor florescent lighting Samoyeds

look yellow. Most times the only white dog in the ring was mine. That made a difference, and people began to realize that if they spent a little extra time on the dog, they might do a little better in the ring. Now, it has gone too much the other way. Two years ago I went to the

Garden. I saw two dogs in the ring that were not scissored or sculptured. So, if I can see it, so can others.

Jack: Years back, the club voted not to trim whiskers and that is the one thing that I always trimmed. You will never, ever get a bitch's face to



Am/Can Ch. Bubbles La Rue of Oakwood moving in the Group ring to a Group I, 1978.

look like Bubbles, if it has whiskers.

So you cannot cut whiskers now?

Jack: No, you'll get thrown out of the ring. Especially with a bitch that depends so much on her smile to win. From a strictly show point of view, a bitch can't look the same with whiskers. The bitch has this perky little smile and tail. We had Bubbles so well trained that she would gait with her tail on either side, wherever the judge was positioned. If the judge moved to the other side, Joy would move Bubbles tail over to the other side, and that's where it would stay for the rest of the ring time. Bubbles would hold her head and ears just so, and her tail would be going with just a little wagging. But, I started to train her at six weeks of age.

Amelia: She had an instinct for what worked. I have only seen three Samoyeds who had that kind of charisma. It's like people, they either have it, or they don't. I remember when Bubbles was just six weeks old, and Jack would stack her up. She would just turn on. I was a total novice and I could feel the electricity coming off of her. When she was in the Group ring, people would point her out and say, "Look at that little bitch." These were people from other breeds. She just stood out from the rest.

Jack: She was just so cute and so pretty. I used to train her with Cheetos Puffs because they were light, and I could throw them up in the air and they would float down. I would sit in front of the TV and work with her.

Amelia: At her very first match show she went Best in Show and beat out a thousand animals, when she was three months old. We had to keep putting her back in her crate to rest, because it was such a long show.

Jack: When my father first went to dog shows and would win the class, we would pack up and go home. We didn't know we were supposed to stay for points. If we had stayed, we probably would have finished lots of dogs as puppies.

Amelia: When Jack's father got his first Samoyed bitch from Mrs. Davis, he had to give her two litters back before he got the papers. That's how hard it was to get a decent quality animal.

He really didn't know much about showing. He just loved the breed.

What would you tell a novice to look for in a puppy?

Jack: I roll it over and look

at the belly. If it is all pink then ship it out. If it has black dots then look at it. If it is all black



Ch. Bogart of Bubbling Oaks TT (Ch. Camshaft of Bubbling Oaks x Dejà Vu of Bubbling Oaks TT). Our extraordinary guard dog with a temperament test title. Facing page: Bubbling Oaks Samoyeds running the Sandwich Notch race, New Hampshire, 1987 (dual start race). Right lead, Fatso; left lead, Shauna; right point, Krypto; left point, Fang; right wheel, Camshaft; left wheel, Beau Bianco of Bubbling Oaks. Race where Jack was training Fatso and Shauna to lead. Jack put his leaders, Krypto and Fang, at point, then if leader made wrong turn, point dogs would correct leaders.





*At lead: Snow Fang of Bubbling Oaks TT, one year, three months old, rig race (Ch. Suffolk Woly Buly of Oakwood TT x Bubbling Oaks Lorelei).
One of the lead dogs on all '85 and '86 long-distance races (pointed). See him keeping that tug line OUT TIGHT - notice the rear leg tension.*



Black Hawk of Bubbling Oaks (neutered). One of dogs on Jack's 1985 SCA Top Sled Dog Team, ran point. Hawk injured his leg and got a ride from buddies. He was so well-trained that he would stay on sled without constraints (no dog boy needed).

keep it. That's the first thing.

Really!

Jack: The more black on the belly when it's born, the

darker the eyes will be and the stronger the dog will be.

Amelia: It will be genetically stronger.

Jack: I don't know about that, but they make better dogs. They have darker eyes, lips and eye rims, which are big things.

You can tell these puppies at six weeks by just flipping them over. Black toenails are a good indication, but often at six weeks they are still pink. Pick him up with your hand totally supporting him under his stomach, so the front and rear legs hang freely. Then, look at him from the front and the rear. The front legs should hang completely straight. The little bumps at the top of the pasterns indicate that it will have some substance to it. The ears should not hang all the way down the side of the face. I want small eyes. I don't want big, round eyes. I don't want a really long or really short muzzle. Basically, I am more interested in how they hang when I hold them up. They should look balanced. I sit down and watch them walk back and forth along the tunnel downstairs, which connects the kennel with the outside paddocks. We watch them walk every few days and watch them develop that way. When I was looking for puppies for sledding, and I had a litter of six puppies, I would throw five chicken necks into the six puppies, and the one that didn't get one went to a pet home. I would watch and one of them would collect four or five of the chicken necks. That's a keeper. That's going to be the tough one.

If I had one that looked great but didn't get the chicken necks, he was singled out to spend time with mama, getting extra attention, vitamins, extra food and whatever else to build him up, so that he becomes the one that takes the four or five chicken necks. He becomes the top of the pecking order of that litter. He gets to be the strong temperament dog. While I can't change them, I can condition them mentally and physically to make them what I want. Krypto, Am/Can Ch. Bubbling Oaks U.S. Mail, was a puppy like this. He was born a mush, but went on to win Best Puppy at the Washington State Specialty and Best Puppy and RWD at the Nationals in '82, won Best of Breed at the International in Chicago; then, spent the next six years as a lead dog with Fang on my sled team. He was conditioned to have nerves of steel. In '84, he and Fang lead my team through a blizzard at minus 40 degrees to be the first Samoyed team to ever complete



Bubbling Oaks Snow Fang of Bubbling Oaks, Jack's lead dog. He and Krypto were double lead. Fang was ambassador to the public. Picture sent to us by a local newspaper; the one they used in their article about sled racing. Facing page: Centerfold of "New York Newsday" newspaper after New York City was hit with a blizzard. Sled team: (left lead) Poison Ivy of Bubbling Oaks, (right lead) Ch. Camshaft of Bubbling Oaks.



don't realize this when they live with just one dog. They truly are a pack animal, if you leave them alone they work out their own problems. We did have some fights between males, but most times, they basically settled their own problems and the bitches always settled the differences among the little ones.

Jack: At one time, the town board was having a hearing to get a noise ordinance passed against multiple pet owners, and we were fighting it. I was at the hearing and Amelia was home. After the hearing, a couple of news people wanted to come up here with their camera crews to interview us and see the dogs. We had 27 dogs, adults and puppies, at that time. The news crews came out and we walked them into the third paddock. I had a table out there that I used for summer grooming. When they entered the paddock the dogs started barking. I whistled and the dogs stopped. I let all 27 of the dogs out. I had nine champion stud dogs in the group, and the rest were all



Ch. Camshaft of Bubbling Oaks doing a qualifying pull.



First time we took dogs out to train them using an old freighting sled. It was right after Jack's mercy run in the blizzard.



Rig training in Ridge, New York, twelve-dog team.

bitches and puppies. One cameraman was deathly afraid of dogs, so he climbed up on the picnic table. Well, that's where the dogs play King of the Mountain. Before I knew what happened, there were three dogs up on the picnic table with this cameraman, and he was terrified. All the other dogs are running around and being petted by the camera crew members. Then, I clapped my hands, and all the dogs ran back into their kennel area and into their own kennels. At the same time, the newspaper folks could hear the noise coming from the boarding kennel next door, where they have about a hundred dogs. I said, "See, my dogs only bark when we approached, and they quiet down the minute I tell them to." They were really impressed with my dogs and how well they behaved, and my dogs are tough dogs. So, the story they presented on the evening news was the local town board is harassing pet owners.

The board did not get their ordinance passed, but got a lot of bad publicity for themselves.

Speaking of tough dogs, I laugh when people say Samoyeds are soft dogs or believe they are not a protective breed. There was a serial killer in California, at one time, and young women were getting raped and killed. We had sent Tasha, a bitch, out there on a lease and the breeder kept making excuses not to send her back. She had two quiet males, but kept asking, "Can't we keep her?" She was so protective she didn't want to give her up.

Amelia: Natasha had been bred and the pups were sold, but they just kept her. Then the truth came out that the woman was terrified of the killer in their neighborhood and wanted to keep Tasha for protection. An ant couldn't crawl across Tasha's puppy pen. She would smash it with her paw. She was tough.

Jack: We put her in a ken-

nel with Fatso. She beat the crap out of Fatso (Am/Dan Ch. Bubbling Oaks Fast Break) because she did not like him and pulled all the hair out of his front legs all the way up to his withers. He had a zillion little holes on both legs and no hair. The bitches ruled the kennel with a bite to the ear. Most of our males had ears with tooth punctures in them. Tasha bit Camshaft right in the testicles, because she didn't like the way he was behaving, and he almost lost his testicles. Yet, she was as sweet as could be with people.

Amelia: When we were first married, Jack went to his weekly bridge game and left the front

door open. I was alone with our four dogs. Three men with stocking masks came into the house. They obviously waited for Jack to leave and knew I was by myself. Had it not been for the dogs running them off ... I hate to think about what might have happened.

Another time, I was going to an all night supermarket and Jack insisted I take Woly Buly. I left Woly Buly in the car, sleeping on the floor. I went into the store and came back out. I had my keys in my hand ready to unlock the door. I'm a city girl. I see this car parked next to mine, in such a way, that if I opened my door on the driv-



Jack pictured with a five-Sam team. Picture published in AKC Gazette, December 1986. Lead, Poison Ivy of Bubbling Oaks; left point, Am/Can Ch. Bubbling Oaks U.S. Mail; right point, Ch. Camshaft of Bubbling Oaks; left wheel, Black Hawk of Bubbling Oaks; right wheel, Ch. Bogart of Bubbling Oaks TT.

er's side of my car then my back would be to the driver's door of the car parked next to me. I sensed danger, and decided to go around to the other side of

my car. Well, this guy jumps out of his car and comes around after me. I had just enough time to pull the door of my car open. Woly Buly looks up, saw this

guy grabbing me, and lunged at the man. I grabbed the leash to pull Woly Buly off the guy because I wanted the dog with me. The guy broke free and ran

for his car, but I got some of the license numbers. I jump in the car with Woo Woo, and we went home. I did call the police and report what happened.



Krypto (Ch. Suffolk Woly Buly of Oakwood TT x Bubbling Oaks Vanilla Shake) on chain awaiting the Sandwich Notch 60 race, 1986. Blue mark on hindquarter is print mark used to identify dogs in a particular race. He is the left lead dog on Jack's team and nephew to Bubbles.

Days later, the police show up in my driveway and show me pictures of some men in a line up asking, "Do you see the man who jumped you?" I said, "That's him." They said they believed that he had mugged six different women in the same shopping center and, now, they had a positive ID.

Jack: Woly Buly went through windshields on me. The second time it happened, I found a tire iron under my car. We had to get windshield insurance because his lifetime total was five broken windshields.

Amelia: I have another Woly Buly story; we have a lot of Woly Buly stories. I had gone to see my grandmother in an area of the city you could call "Fort Apache." Jack told me to take Woly Buly for protection and leave him in the car with the windows open. After visiting for two hours with my grandmother, I went to go out the front doors of the hospital. The people in the lobby were

looking out the doors and telling me, "No, no, and blanco lupo." I thought, that means white dog? They must mean my dog. I went running out the doors, because I thought something must have happened to Woly Buly. Well, there he was, with his back feet in the car, and the rest of him hanging out the window snarling at anyone who dared to walk on the street. As I approached the car, I suddenly realized that not only had I left my dog in a brand-new car with open windows, but I also left the keys in the ignition!

That's a great story!

Amelia: Back to grooming and sculpting. I feel people are doing themselves a terrible injustice when they do serious scissoring and sculpting. Sure, they may get an immediate win because the judge doesn't realize this and may give the animal a win. It comes back to the point that you can only breed into your puppies what is good or bad structurally in the sire and

dam. You can have big dog show wins and your dog could be well-known in the country. If the dog doesn't have the structure he needs, you are just fooling yourself. In the end, winning by over grooming and sculpting gives false illusions to breeders, because the dog has limited good structure to pass on to his puppies.

Jack: I don't think we have had a generation, in all our years of breeding, that hasn't produced a few champions, or a few that could have been, had they been shown. Since we have been divorced, we really have not shown. When we were showing dogs, there was always something nice out there.

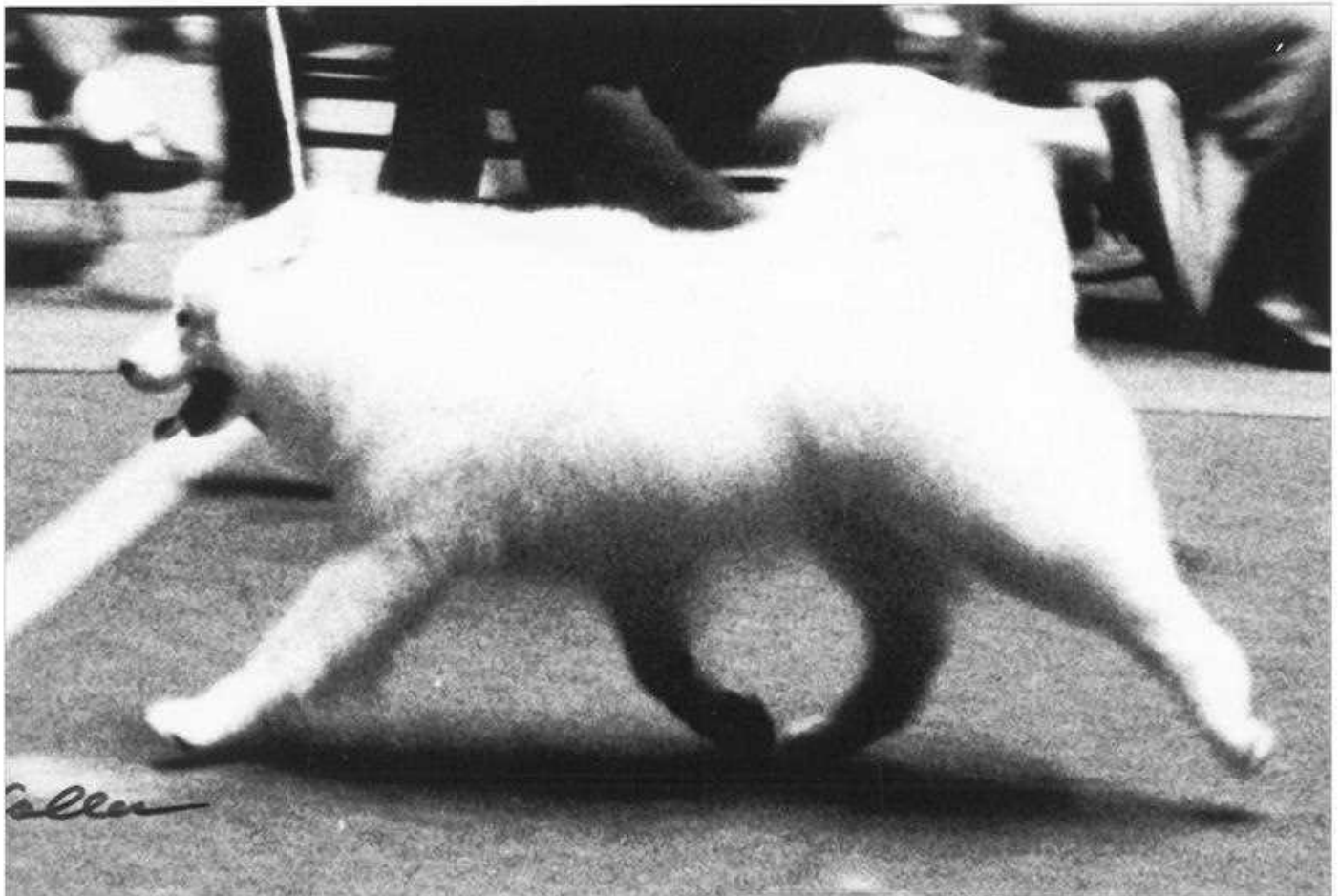
Amelia: In all honesty, I have to say that 80 percent of the dogs that left this house for pet homes would have won their championships quite easily. That has been deliberate, because in my heart, I really feel I want my dogs in a home where they'll get love and atten-

tion.

Jack: Why send them someplace where they will have to live in a cage, or live in a kennel, get shipped around the country, be abused, and so forth? We send them to Samoyed heaven. When we sell puppies we get big money. We have been offered tremendous amounts of money from outside this country for our dogs in the past. I mean big, big money to send a dog to Europe, South America, the Far East, or Brazil.

Amelia: Someone wanted my Poison Ivy, and he told Jack, "Name your price ... \$30,000, \$40,000, or whatever you want."

Jack: With this guy, if I had said, "\$100,000," he would have written a check for that amount and never said another word. He had an oil painting of his dog, which we sold to him, in his living room that must have been six or eight feet long. Poison Ivy was Bubbles daughter, and we didn't want to sell her. We loaned her to them. Their



BIS Ch. Me Too of Bubbling Oaks moving in Group at the Garden.

dog, J.R., was being shown. His wife had a chronic lung disorder, was always on oxygen, and

hood on Long Island the trappers were getting a lot of good press and pressuring the supervi-

"I just wanted you to know that it was your story that got the bill to outlaw steel traps passed."

answers back, "But my dear, you know, she's a backyard bitch." None of them realized



Puppies out of Shandi of Bubbling Oaks x Ch. Bogart of Bubbling Oaks TT.

in a wheelchair. J.R. was her baby, who was out being shown, so we said we would lend them Poison Ivy. One day, Poison Ivy ran into their bushes in the back of their property and screamed. When they found her, one hock was stripped, as if a big animal had gotten hold of her. A steel trap that was set on the property fractured the hock. She could never be shown again. She had to have an eight-hour operation, while the vet pieced and wired her hock back together again. We didn't know if she would be able to ever walk again, or if we would have to amputate the leg. She limped for a number of years, but it eventually worked itself out.

Amelia: Two little children lived next to Merrill and more traps were found on their property. A year or two after that, there was a big uproar, here in Suffolk County, when the legislature passed a bill to outlaw steel traps in the county. Since it would be the end of their liveli-

ness, the supervisor vetoed the bill. I heard about it on the radio and called in because they were asking for public opinion. By sheer luck, I got the supervisor's assistant on the phone. I told her how Poison Ivy was caught in a steel trap on private property; that she was the only get out of the All-Time Top Winning Bitch in the breed, had already won the Sled Bitch class at our National Specialty and that she could never be shown or raced again because of the injuries caused by this steel trap, which totally mangled her leg. I told her that the worst part was that they had found more traps on the neighbors' property up and down the street. I told her that, if my dog hadn't walked into that trap, chances are the young children could have walked into the traps. Trappers looking for raccoon pelts had knowingly placed all the traps on private property in people's backyards. The supervisor's assistant called me back a few days later. She said,

She told me that the supervisor couldn't make up his mind.

So she told him the story of Poison Ivy and the children whom the unlawful trapping could have hurt, and that Poison Ivy's story is what made up his mind to pass the bill. In the end, even though Poison Ivy suffered most of her life from the injuries - her accident did something really good.

Jack: The one story we have to tell you about Bubbling Oaks, before I go do my work, is the way we got the name Back Yard for our ads and the articles titled, "From the Back Yard." When Bubbles was formally retired, she was entered in the Parade of Champions at the National Specialty.

Amelia: As she was receiving her ribbon, I was standing behind these two women and they didn't know me. People really only recognized Jack. One woman says to the other, "My, she is such a gorgeous bitch." The other woman

Bubbles came from one of the oldest original kennel lines in the country.

Jack: We had never published Bubbles' pedigree. It was right after that when we published her pedigree showing that she was a Park Cliff dog, and Park Cliff was one of the six original kennels in the 1920s. I believe Mrs. Davis registered her kennel name with AKC in 1918. She had one of the six kennels in the United States in the early '20s or '30s and Bubbles was about twelve or thirteen generations removed from Antarctic Buck.

So that's where you got the name, "The Back Yard"?

Amelia: Yes, from that lady's remark that Bubbles was nothing more than a backyard bitch. So all our ads read, The Back Yard.

How did you come up with Bubbling Oaks?

Jack: My father wanted us to continue his Suffolk kennel name, but I wanted to call her

Bubbles and Mel wanted to add La Rue after a famous New York stripper, called Bubbles La Rue. So, we pacified my father and named Woly Buly with the Suffolk prefix and added our street name to Bubbles La Rue. Thus, Bubbles La Rue of Oakwood. At that time, we planned to use our street name as our kennel name, which was Oakwood Road.

Amelia: The woman who had Oakwood Farms had a fit. When Bubbles started winning people started associating Bubbles with Joan Lueck's Oakwood Kennels.

Jack: She sent us a letter

suggesting that we change the name of our kennel. Later on, Bubbles was doing so well that she was happy to let people think it was her breeding. We decided to go ahead and change our kennel name to Bubbling Oaks, and the name came from Bubbles and Oakwood. We had great dog names like Camshaft, Vanilla Shake, A Boy Named Sue. We had some crazy t-shirts made that read, "I sleep with Bubbles La Rue" and "Bubbles La Rue Loves Me Too." Remember that Me Too was our second bitch. One shirt read, "Stormy gave Foxy the Shaft." Stormy was bred to

Foxy and they produced Camshaft (Shaft).

You guys are characters!

Amelia: When we first started showing in the '70s, everyone had these kennel names, which you could barely pronounce, let alone remember, and then a call name, which made little sense to me. So we would dream up these interesting names that people would not forget. I have a background in advertising so I realized the important of name recall. Foxy Loxy, Vanilla Shake, Camshaft, Poison Ivy, Sugar Daddy, Me Too, Krypto, etc., and that's what we called the dogs. Some-

times we did not name a dog for months. That is why every dog in my house answers to puppy. If people saw our dogs in a show, it was easy to remember their name because it was cute or different. Overtime, other people began giving their dogs a name they could use to call it and the idea became more popular across breeds.

That's how I do it.

Amelia: We came up with such funny names that people had to remember the names.

Jack: Sometimes we didn't name our dogs until they were six months old.

Amelia: Our theory was



Ch. Camshaft of Bubbling Oaks, BOB, Group placer.

that we needed to live with the dog for awhile to see how it behaved, and what it was like, before we could give it a name.

Jack: Krypto was Bubbling Oaks U.S. Mail, but we called him Krypto because our son, Ean, loved Superman and flew around the house with his cape on himself and his Wonder Dog, Krypto. Black Hawk was given his name because he caught the rabbit.

Amelia: One of the nicest things is being copied. It's a nice form of flattery. I used to laugh when I opened a magazine, and there was a dog named Vanilla, a dog with Foxy in the name, or the time I found a dog named Amelia, spelled just like I spell my name.

Jack: A name is as important as the quality of the dog, if you want to have people remember your dog.

Now Jack, before you head out to work, what would you like people to know about you, your kennel, the breed or anything in general?

Jack: Medium, medium, medium! Not too big and not too small. Not too course and not too refined. Medium is the key to our breed.

Do you have advice for novices who are going out to get their first puppy?

Jack: Get it from a breeder who has OFA dogs. That is very important. If they are not OFA dogs, at least buy from someone who has x-rayed their dogs and take a peek at the x-rays. When we started most of us were breeding by only using pedigrees to hedge our bets against congenital diseases. For years, I just x-rayed my dogs and kept the x-rays at home.

Amelia: For many years when HD became the curse of the dog world a lot of people got blindsided and were only concerned with hips. It was a like a fixation.

Jack: When breeding, you have to look at the total dog. By that, I mean what he is likely to produce as offspring. You need to study your pedigrees and hedge your bets against congenital diseases. We don't have tests yet for most diseases that our breed can produce, so the only way to avoid or control a problem is to study the pedigree of each parent and learn some basic genetics.

Amelia: Yes, they even have basic genetics on the internet. It takes years to know your breed.

Jack: A lot of breeders have no idea what is structurally sound in our breed, or haven't a

clue as to real type. A large percentage of people judging our breed have no idea what the breed is all about. They have no idea about the word medium, or what it is supposed to mean.

How can we improve on that?

Jack: You can't educate them, and you can't show them because the people who are picking the winners have no idea either. The quality and knowledge of the judges has declined tremendously over the past years, and therefore, the judging has deteriorated too. At the same time, you can't fault a judge who has to pick something for first place, and the ring is full of inferior quality. A judge needs to have a good draw and people have to be able to respect their opinions. Over the years, I have done some Sweepstakes and, so forth and so on, with Sams and other breeds and even though I am a big mouth and make lots of politically incorrect statements, I usually had a very decent size entry, especially years ago, when people really did know me. I have put up everybody's and anybody's dog out in San Diego. If a person has a good dog, they have a good dog, and they deserved to win. Everyone gave me a hard time because of some of my placements, or I should say, their handlers, but I don't care who is on the end of the lead. I only care about what is on the dog's end of the lead.

We don't need judges who have licenses signed off on by

people planning to show their dogs and all the other politics that goes with that. Lots of people really don't know what a Samoyed is supposed to look like. It is very important to have a dog with moderate angulation, a long back, a nicely set neck with a nice length. The dog should be shown with their chin level with their back in order for them to move properly. If you hold their head up too high, it throws the whole front end off. They should not gait around the ring at ten miles an hour. They should be going around the ring at the same speed my sled dogs went in a sled race - seven to eight miles an hour. That is the right speed for them to trot. Some dogs may be a little slower, some a little faster, but seven or eight miles an hour is where they should be.

Amelia: I want to say that it is supposed to be fun. It is frustrating to go to specialties, where people do not understand that the reason you are there is to enjoy yourself, enjoy being with people who love your breed, and enjoy just being with, and learning about your breed. Winning has become such an obsession that there is little fun. They sit and they talk about this one and that one. Laughter is the exception and not the ordinary. People have forgotten it's fun to just sit down and make friends with strangers, and learn from them and teach new people in the fancy. The sad part is that you see this across most



Am/Can Ch. Bubbling Oaks U.S. Mail, "Krypto," at six months winning Best Puppy and RWD at Nationals.



Ch. Me Too of Bubbling Oaks.

breeds. It is called the "sport of dogs" and it is supposed to be for people to enjoy.

Jack: For our first specialty,

lost sight of the whole picture of the dog, and how all his parts are interrelated. They get hung up on one particular aspect of

cate ourselves, but breeders do need to trust their senses, and don't let other people influence their decisions.

I am so pleased to see that the focus of the dog world, in general, is changing, and breed clubs are focusing more on the original intrinsic qualities of each breed. In Samoyeds, we have reached a point where our breeders are encouraging other extra curricular activities for the Samoyeds. Now, it is an opportunity for pet people, someone who has only one dog, to truly enjoy the breed by taking that dog to an agility match and having a wonderful time with the dog without the politics of the dog shows.

Today, breeders and pet people can really enjoy the breed for what it is. It is a golden opportunity for breeders to open up and learn to embrace these different activities, and bring new pet people into the fold. Breeders have an opportunity to educate these new owners about the breed and inform them about what is required to take care of the breed. We, as breeders, can give them an understanding of the breed's glorious history and temperament, as well as, a deeper love for what is now sleeping on their couch. It is just good business.

You can bring in a larger pool of people to help support your rescue groups. You can create a larger pool of people with more skills, who can now help the parent club. That new owner may not have the best dog out there, but he may have a wonderful background in genetics, computers or organizational skills. All these people help enrich and enhance the overall dog world. I remember going to a mucky-muck dinner at the Harrisburg Kennel Club. The lady sitting across from me was a third-generation dog breeder, who just had to declare to me that I had "a pet mentality." Well, I am thrilled that my pet mentality is more in fashion these days. So, I guess the moral of the story is that the pet mentality sitting across the table at some specialty dinner, or stuffing cotton balls up the wrong hole could end up being your club president some day. (laughter)

I agree, and I like your pet mentality.

Amelia: When we moved into this house, Jack wanted to build an outside kennel building. I knew if he put a kennel out back, we would end up with 150 dogs. The reason I would not let him do it was I knew the dogs would spend their lives in



Krypto doing a promotion for shampoo Les Poochs at Bloomingdale's, New York City.

Melody and I flew out to San Diego with a couple of our dogs. It was late summer. We didn't know that they didn't have tents, like they do back here in New York. We got out there, and there was no shade. It was 100 degrees with no shade. In today's game, very few people would offer you help. Back then, I had a half a dozen offers for shade. They asked, "Do you need water? Do you need a grooming table? Whatever you need, let us know."

Amelia: I think the right word is civility. It was total cut-throat in the ring, and to this day I have yet to see anybody more competitive than Joan Scovin, Janice McGoldrick Hovelmann, Jack Feinberg and Jack Price. But, the minute they stepped out of that ring there was civility.

Jack: I never talked down about their dogs in public. I might say to somebody, "Get that piece of crap out of my way," but I would never go up to anyone else and say, "Look at the piece of crap he's got."

Amelia, what is it you would like people to know? What are your parting words?

Amelia: People are so locked into certain parts of the dog's anatomy that they have

the dog that they like or dislike, and forget that the key word is balance. Jack will say to you that Samoyeds need to be medium size. I agree, but I feel the key word is balance. The first law of nature and survival is balance. It matters not what species you are discussing, if the animal body is not in balance for the type of activity it must do, it will not survive because it cannot work properly and efficiently. Therefore, I feel the first requirement in any working breed is its balance. Then you look at type, and all the individual parts. People need to trust their eyes. They don't have to study anatomy to instinctively understand balance and be able to choose a sound puppy or adult. People can identify a beautiful woman, whether she is Chinese, Asian or black. Science tells us that is because we instinctively see the balance in the bone structures of the face. This is also true of dogs. If they can look at an animal and see it smoothly gait, more than likely, the dog is in balance. Some of his parts may not be totally correct, but the parts compensate for each other and flow to make a smooth functioning animal. That's balance. I am not saying we don't need to learn and edu-



Ch. Bubbles La Rue of Oakwood winning her first show at three months of age over an entry of 1,000 animals.

a kennel. I could not deal with that. So, we set up the kennel so that the dogs had to come in at night; they were all trained housedogs. I may have had eighteen or twenty dogs at any given time, but they were all trained to be housepets and trained to live with people. It helped them in the show ring. Sometimes we kept an animal for a year or two before we made the final decision on whether we would keep it for show or breeding. If we decided to find it another home, the transition was always smooth. I never had a problem placing an animal.

As far as the showing, we literally could take a dog to a specialty, walk it around outside for a little while, and take it in the ring. When you put that kind of a head on a dog you can take them anywhere and do anything with them without worrying. People who keep their dogs isolated in kennels, for whatever reason, can't give the dog the attention it needs. It's a disservice to the owners because they can't enjoy the great personalities of their animals. Most of their contact is down time, by that I mean, they have to spend more time doing the negative things, like kennel maintenance, rather than just spending relaxation time with their animals. Then they groom the dogs, stick them in a car and go to a dog show. They wonder why they don't win as often as they should, even though they have a dog with good structure. The dog doesn't have the rest of it to go with the structure. It is only a partially complete show animal, if it hasn't been socialized properly.

That's part of the reason you hear people remark that American dogs are more aggressive than English dogs. The English socialize their dogs more than the Americans do. They take their puppies out with them, even to the local pub. In general, we isolate our dogs too much. We fence them too much. We are changing the temperaments of our animals by not socializing them. Dogs are social animals and they need it to keep their heads on straight. I had to fly with a puppy to get it down to the new owner in time for the opening ceremonies of a new dog park he had created in Palm Beach. People drove

long distances to bring their dogs to this dog park. They cut the ribbon, and I looked up and I saw that they were going to let all of these dogs loose together.

Anything else?

Amelia: If an owner decides to begin showing their dog, the most important thing to remember is that it is not you on the

pier.

They will have more fun!

Amelia: Even Little League is too competitive today. There is something very wrong with



Ch. Bubbling Oaks the One & Only, "Babyface," granddaughter of Bubbles. Finished in six shows with three majors. Shown once as a special at the World Show in Copenhagen, Denmark, 1989. Won first place Championship Bitch class, a Challenge Certificate, and went fourth Best of Breed over European competition as well as the #1 ranked U.S. champion.

My heart stopped, the result of my dog show training. I had this mental picture of dogs fighting with heads and tails in every direction. I looked again, and all I saw were dogs running around playing. I was amazed - big dog, small dogs - all running around playing and chasing. They were having a ball! Dogs are social animals. I've been to dog shows for a lot of years and seen dogs in crates snarling and growling. People were astounded when Jack started running six males on a sled team, and they got along, just fine. Being involved with dogs and dog people has been one of the most satisfying experiences of my life. I have learned a lot and I learn more each year.

other end of the leash being judged. It is your dog being judged, and it is the opinion of one person. Don't take it personally. Some people seem to feel that the dog at the end of the leash is an extension of their alter ego, and if your dog doesn't win, you have no value, or have been personally rejected and humiliated amongst your peers. I am the worst loser on God's earth, but I can hide it. You have to remember it's a show, and if the dog loses, or really isn't top quality, it's not you that lost and it doesn't depreciate from who you are as a person, or the love that you have for your animal. If a new person can start out with this in mind, he or she will be a lot hap-

py our society when the most important thing is to win. Having a wonderful Poochie to share your life is a lot more important. We just proved that even if you had big winning dogs, you would have trouble remembering what wins and where, but you will never have trouble laughing at their antics, and telling the stories of how much fun they brought into your life. Like me, you will laugh at their antics while they are with you, and tell stories about them long after they have gone.

Thank you, Amelia, for letting me come and visit with you and Jack. I could sit and listen to you for several more hours. •