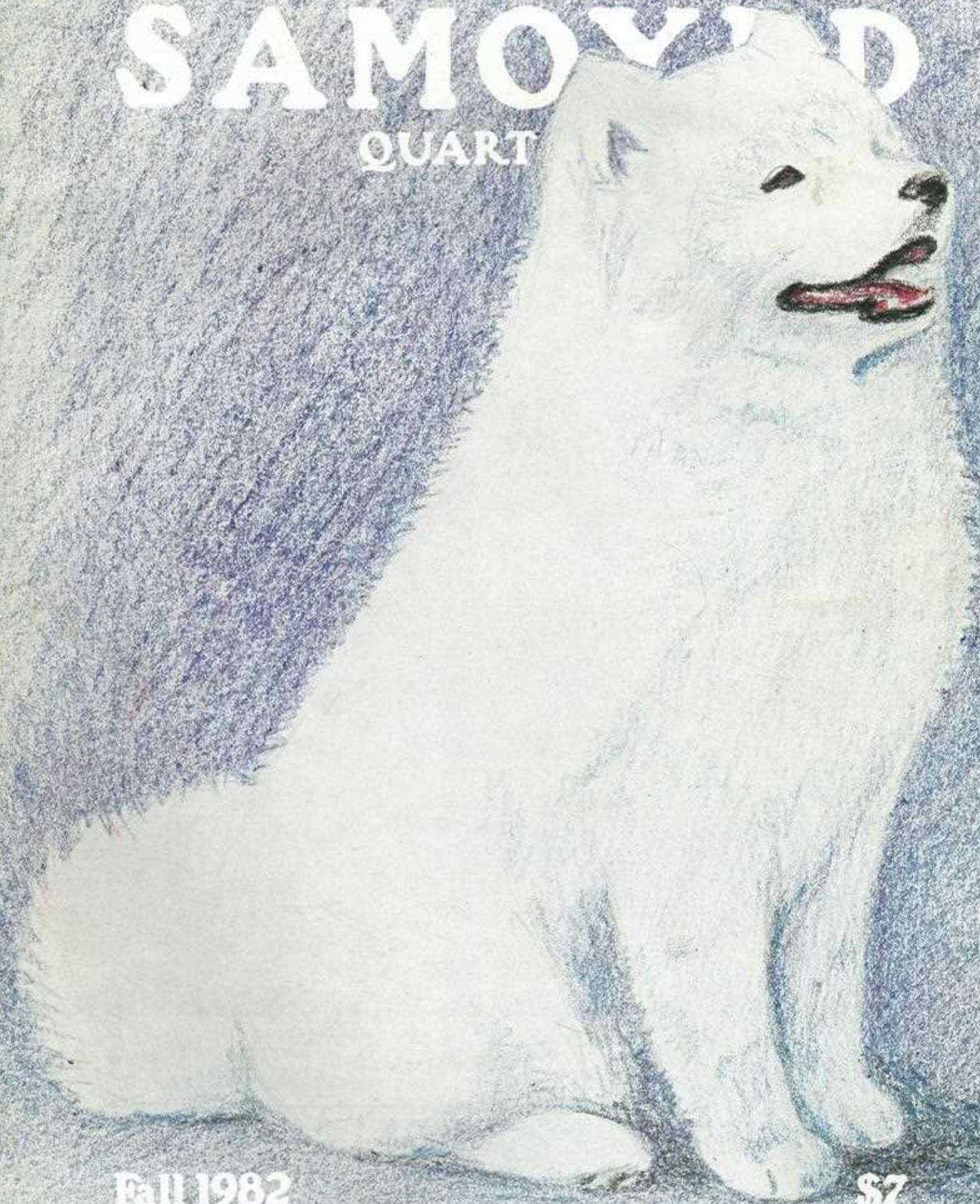


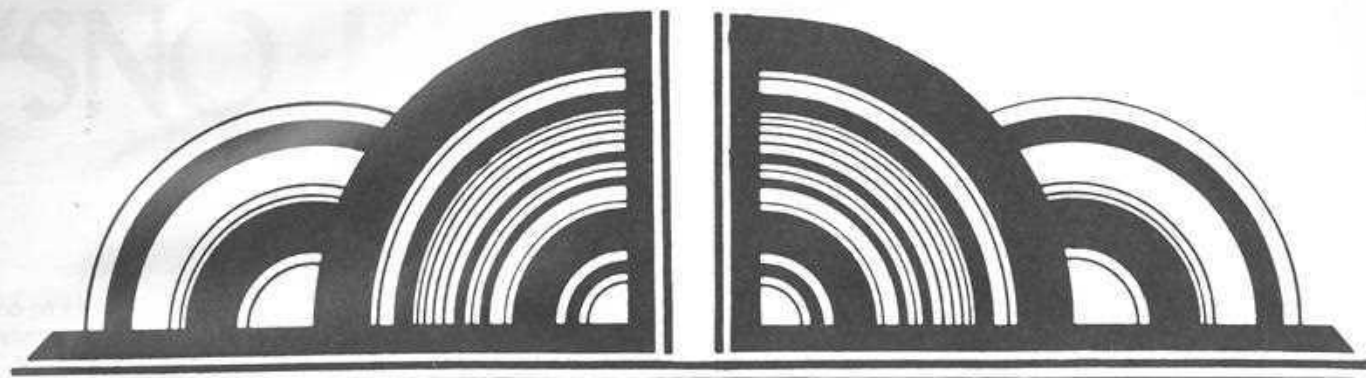
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SAMOYED PEOPLE



The Samoyed Quarterly
Talks With
Walt and Jan Kauzlarich
KAUZJA SAMOYEDS
Fremont, California

*This interview was conducted
at the Kauzlarich's home, by Lyn
Snyder Hoflin in September, 1981.*

How did you get started in dogs?

Jan: Let Walt tell you, he tells it better.

Walt: I was a bill collector for Sears Roebuck, and Jan was teaching public school. One of her fourth graders gave a report on Samoyed dogs. She came home and told me about this dog, and I thought, "White, hairy dog..." I had a place out in the country where I always stopped to ask directions when I was running down deadbeats, and these people had a big, white, hairy dog that I always thought was a white Chow. I am terrified of Chows! As a kid I had a big, mean Chow on my paper route who used to chase and bite me all the time. So we went out to visit this dog and it was a Samoyed, and we really liked him. So we started looking

and we looked and looked, and couldn't find one. A few months later, we went on a trip, and bumping along the back roads of western Washington State, we came to a big sign on a mail box, "Samoyed pups for sale." So we stopped and got one.

Jan: Now, here's my version. Like all young, newly-married people, we had lived in a series of apartments and collected cats. Then we moved into a real house with a yard, and we hadn't even got our belongings and cats moved in before Wally started belling about getting a dog. I KNEW I had to use some psychology here, so I said okay, IF I got to pick the breed of dog. He got me to promise I wouldn't pick a small dog, which I had no intention of doing. In fact, I had no intention of picking a dog, period. I figured if I picked the breed I could put off getting a dog for a good long time. At that time, I was teaching remedial reading and using some materials that were a series of small books about real animals. This was before Dr. Seuss. Real animals, mostly dogs and cats, doing real dog and cat things. One of the books was "Sam and Inkspot." Inkspot, the black cat, got trapped in the clothes hamper and Sam, the dog, rescued him by demolishing the clothes hamper. All accompanied by the most lovely pen and ink drawings. I loved this dog! And, lo and behold, one of the boys in the class had 2 Samoyeds. He clued me in - their Sams had cleaned out the neighbors' hen house and cost them a bundle, ran deer nearly every night in the woods, didn't eat much, killed rabbits, needed a bath about once a year, and were awfully smart. This sounded like our kind of dog.

Walt liked the idea, so we started looking. Sams were pretty rare in that area then, so I figured I had at least a couple of dog-free years to look forward to. Then we went on a trip, on



one of Wally's "short cuts" through the woods, and found that sign. I was hoisted on my own petard! We got a puppy. That was Kiki, and she got along beautifully with our cats. Then we moved to California.

Walt: And met Helene Spathoid.

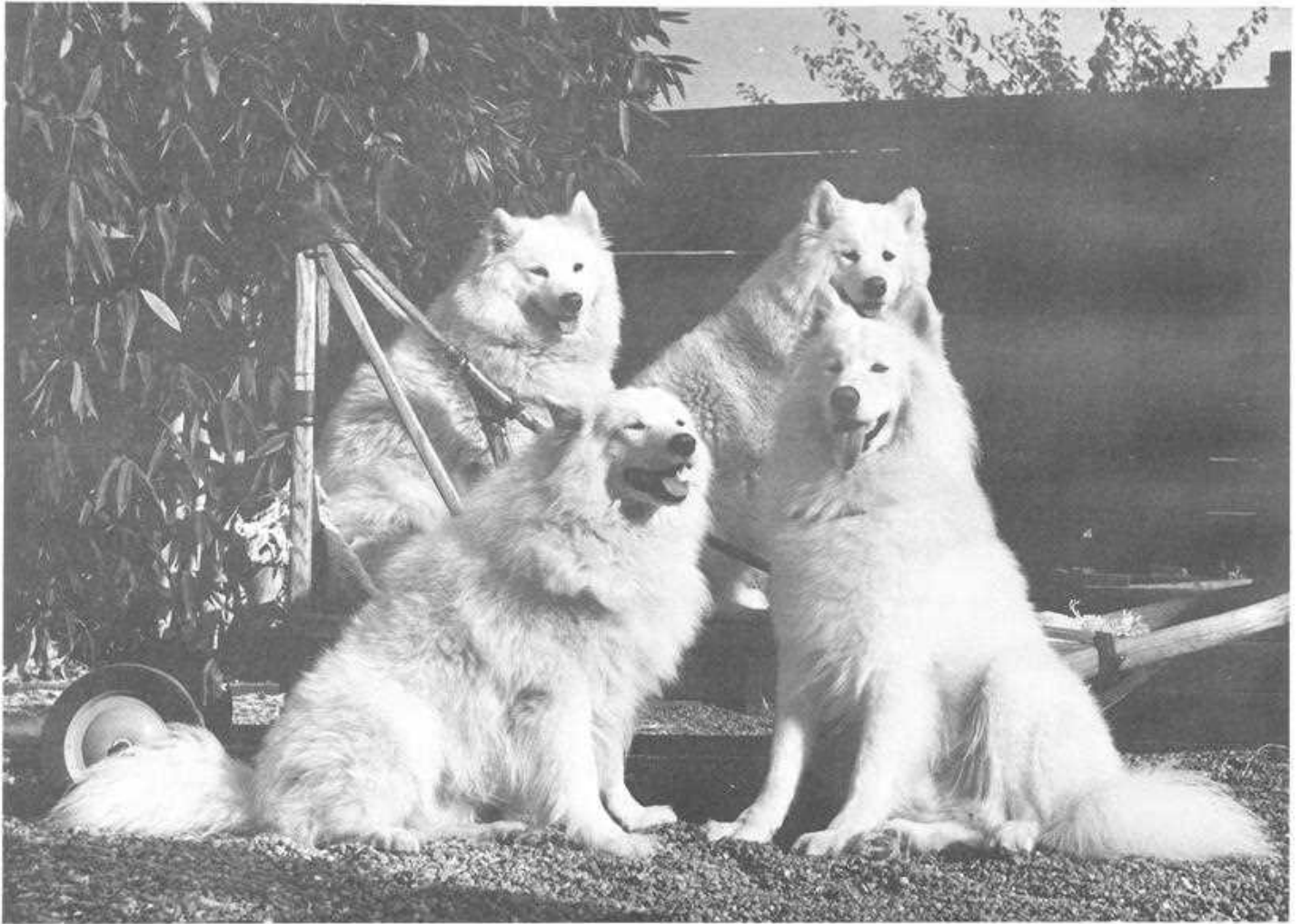
Jan: Through our vet.

Walt: We had an agreement to breed Kiki and give a puppy to the people that we bought her from. Helene taught us almost all we know about dogs.

Jan: Kiki was never intended to be more than a nice pet, and she was that. We learned about dog shows and conformation and obedience with Kiki. She was a healthy, fun, smart dog, with the world's best temperament.

Walt: We met Rokandi and Sikandi and Helene and her father. And, boy, was that luck! Considering the weirdo's we could have gotten mixed up with! When you met Rokandi you fell in love with the breed. It was through Helene that we got into dogs. She got us started, gave us a good foundation.

Jan: There is nobody in Sammies today of her stature. There are some people who think they are, but they all



Ch. Kauzja's Rocotta of Drayalene, Ch. Snokandi Hondo of Drayalene, Kiki & Sugar Cookie

have serious flaws in their knowledge or their ethics. She was just plain good and helpful with novices. Her folks had had Pekinese and Dobies. She was a junior handler as a kid, and had had a top winning Dobie while she was a teenager. She really had a tremendous background before she got into Sammies. That was why she was so successful.

Walt: Dan and LaVera Morgan, Harold and Doris McLaughlin, Sandy and Lee Wacenske, Eliot Colburn, Don and Wilma Coulter, just to name a few of the people who got their basic dog knowledge from Helene. And lots of other people who won't give her credit for what they learned from her.

Did you ever breed Kiki?

Jan: Yes, we did breed Kiki and got a nice, healthy pet litter.

So, you did settle the "puppy back"?

Walt: Yes, we had agreed to that.

Jan: The Bedingfields were just getting started in dogs then. Now they have Sporting dogs, and Bill is a very successful pro-handler in the Northwest, in the Sporting Breeds. They have the top Golden in the Northwest.

So, I assume that after you talked to Helene, you went out and bought

yourself a show dog?

Jan: Lyn, have you heard this story before?

Walt: Helene called us after about a year or so, and she told us that she had a bitch that she was going to breed to Rokandi, and she wanted us to see her.

Jan: She just wanted us to come and see this bitch, she wasn't trying to sell us a puppy or anything, because we were in and out of Helene's all the time.

Walt: We went in and saw this bitch, and it was Clarisse. It was a Rokandi-Clarisse breeding, with Koko, Snokandi, Flicka, Argo, and Nachalnik. We ordered the choice bitch out of this litter right then and there, and that was really our starting point. It was a fantastic litter, from a great bitch and a great dog.

Jan: Helene and her Dad were just plain old friends with us, and they were so helpful to us. We moved down from Washington, the Puget Sound area, and the plants and the ecology and everything is so different in California. Lenny helped us with picking plants for our yard, bushes and shrubs and trees, and so on. He used to drop in every

Saturday morning and have coffee with us, and on Friday afternoon when we'd get off work early, (I taught very close to her family), and I'd visit with them. We were friends, and we started out being friends because of the dogs. They were good, good people, smart, helpful, honest people.

Walt: We have a train room (trains are our second hobby) that Jan built from scratch; she did all the wiring; all the models in the train room are made from scratch by hand, by Jan. And dedicated to the exact little detail, the numbers on boxcars, and so forth; she probably has a better knowledge of the history of Western railroads than the average person who's been in railroads for thirty or forty years. She stole the hobby from me!

Jan: Whose hobby were the dogs, first? Yours. I think I stole the dogs from you, too. That's our winter hobby, the trains; in the summertime we do the gardening. Gardening with dogs is a challenge, to be able to garden around the dogs. I think the most successful piece of gardening that I've ever seen were friends that we sold a dog to in Marin County. They finally decided to fence their garden rather

than the dogs. They made a run for their garden! And it was so successful.

Would you go out to the kennel and get a tomato, please! (laughter)

Jan: The most beautifully landscaped backyard, thoroughly suitable. The dogs had the yard, and the garden was in the dog run ... the garden run, I guess.

So this bitch from Helene, who was she?

Walt: Ch. Drayalene's Rocotta of Kauzja, a littermate to Nachalnik.

What did you do then?

Walt: We made a very, very sad mistake. When she was about two years old, the National Specialty at the

veloping all along, but that was when we saw it.

Walt: We attribute that to Promone. It was within a matter of two months after we gave the shot that Libby said, cut the proportions down to 1/10, and a month later they pulled it off the market. There we were, our first champion from a fantastic litter, from a fantastic breeding, was lost for breeding. So we had to start all over again.

Jan: Anyway, that's the last time we did any experimenting. From then on, everybody else did it. Of course, we didn't know about it at the time, but that was the littermate to the top-

her, and then you bred her. Then the OFA came along with two years; you waited until the bitch was two years old, x-rayed her, and then after you x-rayed her, you showed her, and now the bitch is three or four years old before you have your first litter, and we personally have run into some problems with that. We're going to go back now to the old method, where you bred your bitch the first season after she was a year old, which was successful for years and years. We personally have gotten away from it, and had some personal disasters. Sabrina is an example ... Her first breeding at four or four and a half years old, then we had to spay her. Here again, the Best of Winners at a National Specialty, the Samoyed Club of Los Angeles' Tournament winner, and we had to spay her.

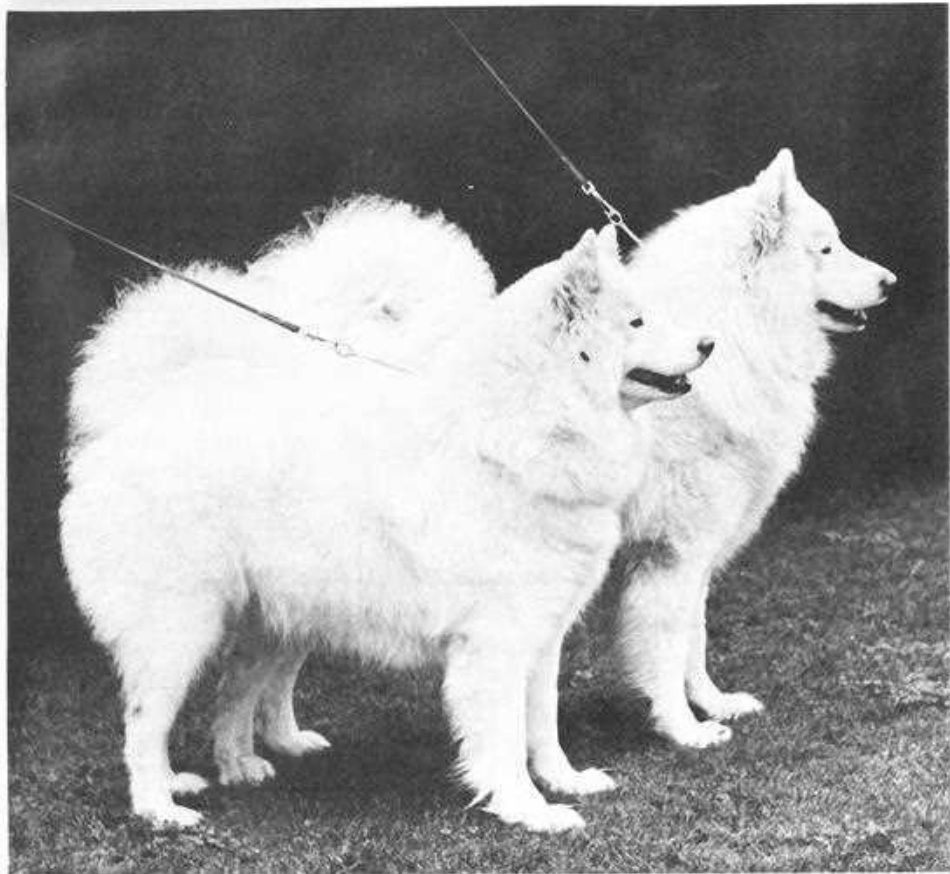
Jan: But I still think that's kennel management, waiting too long for her first litter. So we're going to be doing some things differently. That's way on down the line, though, that's fifteen years after all this other stuff we're telling you about. So then we got Hondo, and that's a good story too. Hondo came to us as an adult dog. Some other people had one of the other champion bitches out of that litter (the Nachalnik litter); that was Mary and Bill Miller. They had gotten two males of the same age, a different litter, but the same age and they got to quarreling and fighting, awful fighting, as typical Sammy males will do. So Mary called up and said, "We have to do something about Hondo. Do you want Hondo?" And we said, "OK!" So they brought Hondo over, and Mary was crying, and their son was crying, and everybody was carrying on. So I think we had Hondo for two hours.

Walt: And they came back and got him.

Jan: So the next day Mary called and of course, the same old thing with the two males trying to chew each other up. I said, "Ok, only if you're serious, and bring the papers." Well, first of all, I told her no, I didn't want him, "Because you're just going to bounce him back and forth." So finally they brought him over and I said, "Bring the papers, because I'm not going to go through this whole thing again." I was really being a snot about it.

Walt: They walked in the door, and I said, "Let's see the registration papers," and I said, "Sign it!" They signed it, and I said, "He's our dog. Good-bye." He walked in the door, stepped from our living room to the family room, and he tripped - one step! He went out the patio door, and he tripped again. He was the most clumsy, awkward dog in the world. We kept him home for about a year or so, we showed him at his first show in April of 1965, he went Reserve Winners Dog, and in August he was finished. He took the Breed several times out of the classes, and 2 or 3 Group placements.

Jan: He was number 6 in the nation in 1965. Very elegant ... but at



Ch. Snokandi Hondo of Drayalene & Ch. Silver Snokandi

Miramont Hotel, in Santa Barbara, was coming up, and Koko came into season, and we wanted to go to the Specialty. That's when Promone first came on the market, and Promone was a shot that was supposed to delay her season. Dr. Freed, our vet, wouldn't give it to her, so we went to another vet and got the shot. We were novices. Her season ended and we went to the Specialty, did nothing. Kiki, our pet dog, won second in American Bred and Koko did not do anything. Then it was two years before Koko came in season, and we were going to breed her to White Way's King of Snowridge, and that night she developed pyometra, and we had to spay her.

Jan: Of course, it had been de-

winning stud dog in the United States of all time. And there we were, sitting with his litter sister, who was every bit as good as he was.

Walt: Probably better.

Jan: Or better - at any rate, she was a better show dog. There we were with a spayed bitch! So we did NO more experimenting medically, from then on. Just tried and true methods; we'll just wait and see what other people do, then we'll try them. I think people can overdo experimenting with dogs.

Walt: In those days, you used to breed ... everybody bred their bitch the first season after it had been a year old. Along came OFA, so you waited until your bitch was 18 months, x-rayed

fifteen months old he was ...

Walt: A klutz!

Jan: Then, all of a sudden, we woke up one morning, and he just had it together! It was just like overnight. That was fun. We figure we could've done something with Hondo, now that we know what we're doing! We showed him; we didn't turn him over to a handler. But in the meantime, Helene had died, and all the people in Northern California really missed Helene's advice. We missed her advice and guidance; she was always available.

Walt: Very level-headed, too. She could see things beyond in dogs, and she could counsel you in such a way that you saw the same points that she saw - a much broader picture. We suffered as a result of the loss of Helene. We floundered for about five or six years.

Jan: We were so used to her being there, and other people were too. We were so used to relying on her for advice, and "What do I do now, Helene?" And she advised us. She got us started in pedigree work, and she was very active with Lila Weir and the bunch that did a pedigree book at that time. If she had continued to live, she would've been one of the editors of the pedigree book. She got everybody that got mixed up with her interested in anatomy and right away, so that they could start judging and picking those kind of dogs that were sound. So that was well underway, and then we ran right smack dab into hip dysplasia, as a lot of people do. So we decided to get busy and do something about that. We wasted some years, kept some dogs that were not going to do so well in the show ring, but were going to be throwing some good hips, and made some choices there, and we made them almost exclusively on hips and never regretted those choices. The years we wasted in the late 60's and early 70's, as far as the show ring was concerned, we came out of it with sound hips in our dogs.

Walt: We're very proud of the fact that we have OFA number 20, number 26, and number 27, in Samoyeds, and you consider there are maybe 4500 or something, we're proud of that. Our Baron, right now, has produced several excellent OFA. We do not have hip dysplasia.

Jan: It can crop up any old time, though we haven't run into any for many years.

Walt: We have the best track record in California.

Jan: We've gotten the winning and the losing out of our system.

Walt: You don't notice any ribbons posted.

Jan: You interrupted me! I want to talk about OFA, I don't want to talk about ribbons. By the time we decided to jump in and do something about hip dysplasia, we'd gotten the winning all out of our system. But we were very active in those years in publicizing OFA with Doris McLaughlin and Jean Brown, and Jean Baer.

Walt: Jean Brown and Doris McLaughlin primarily.

Jan: We were active in those years, really pushing OFA like nobody's business, and getting the Sammy people to support OFA. Then we got the S.C.A. Board to pass a resolution that we would start including OFA clear dogs and listing them in the pedigree file. That was a lot of work and writing and so on, and urging and talking, and treating everybody like little babies and leading them around by the hand, and telling them that it was going to be good for them and the breed. So those years were spent very actively, and now OFA doesn't need anybody's help any more.

Walt: And all of our dogs do have OFA clearances.

Jan: I'll tell you something ... That was one of the best things that Sammy people have ever done since I've been into Sammies. There have been some real improvements in Sammies. If anybody ends up with dysplasia in Sammies any more, they had better pull up their socks, and change stud dogs.

Walt: Or they had better recognize the problem and do something about it.

Jan: Sammy hips have really improved since the late 50's and early 60's, and OFA was the first step. Because American Sammies have been relatively clear of hip dysplasia for about the last six or eight or ten years. And that's because of OFA setting some standards, and for no other reason. Just that whole thing of having to x-ray them and get that OFA number has really shaped up a lot of sloppiness. So that was one good thing S.C.A. has done. But that was a lot of work, for the people that were initially involved in it.

What has been your long-range program, your goal?

Jan: To have a good time! (laughter)

Walt: We enjoy the dogs, as members of the family. Of course, what we're supposed to be doing theoretically, the idea behind A.K.C. dog breeding and all, is that when you have a litter, the puppies in the litter



Ch. Balalika's Roxanne of Forral, C.D.

should be superior and of better quality than the dam and the sire. That's the name of the game. A lot of people lose sight of that goal, and that's when the shit hits the fan.

Jan: Pursuit of excellence.

Walt: That's why you show, and you get champions, and you should produce champions out of your litters. Our goal has been to breed to our interpretation of the proper Samoyed. But of course, number one, they are members of our family. They live in our house, they all have their own rooms ...

Jan: Ethel Stefanik has a theory about dogs that I don't know if she brought up when you interviewed her, or is she's ever written it down. She has the theory that your best show dogs are not necessarily the ones that are the best ones to live with. And I think she's got a point. Our dogs that are easy to live with are usually miserable in the show ring.

Do you think that showmanship is important?

Jan: Showmanship is the whole thing.

Walt: It's the name of the game.

Jan: When we first got into dogs, we used to think the best dog is going to win. But that's a bunch of baloney; it's the showiest dog with the most charisma, and the one who manages to con the judge out of the ribbon. That dog does it.

Walt: In California, there have been some perfectly awful dogs that have finished because they alert nicely and bait nicely, when the judge is looking. They can't move across the ring, but they alert and bait nicely. You can have excellent conformation on a dog, but if he doesn't show well, forget it! And there are many, many examples, many dogs not particularly of our own, but of other people's that long, long ago should have finished, but didn't. They didn't show in the ring; they're built well, but not showy in the ring.

Jan: And that is something that they are born with. But you can screw it up if you don't bring it along. They may be born that way, but they don't necessarily stay that way. I suppose it's like a kid that is born with an I.Q. of 160, into a family that only sits and watches football on T.V. He's going to be a stupe regardless of what his I.Q. is. It's the same way with dogs. You can have a puppy that somebody will say, "That puppy is going to go like nobody's business, IF you bring it along." And I've seen some really neat show puppies that I thought would really go to town, and have gotten into good homes - I'm not saying they weren't good homes, but homes that didn't know how to bring them along with discipline, and direct them, and do things with them. And along with that showmanship, you have got to be a competent handler. By that I mean you have got to make your dog look good. Even if you just walk in

the ring and don't make your dog move like he has something that he doesn't have. You've got to get past that point. Some people are very gifted at that, and some people aren't. But if I can handle a dog and do some winning with him, anybody on the face of the earth can learn how to handle! Because I'm really a klutz.

Walt: So this tells you something when you say that a showy dog is going to win, whether it can get across the ring or not. That tells you something about the quality of the judging. Personally, I feel that 75% of the judges don't know what they're doing in the ring. And they're putting up just their own little pet ideas of what a Samoyed should be. That is very unfortunate. Dogs that do not single track, move cowhocked, and so forth. But if they are cutesy, they're going to win. Then of course we have the breeder-judges, of which half of them don't know what they're doing in the ring. They may be



Int. Ch. Kauzja's Cochise
of Snowcliff
(This is fun!)

breeders, but they really don't know what a proper Samoyed should be. The other half of the breeders that are judges, a disproportionate percentage of them are playing games all the time. And that's really, really a crime. Because a judge can do more harm in one judging, because he may put up a crappy dog. I feel that 75% of the judges don't know what they're doing in the ring when they're judging Samoyeds.

What do you think could be done to improve this?

Jan: I have found a pattern in other breeds, not just Sammies, but in Shepherds and in Dobies, and in a couple of other breeds that we've had experience with. People who are successful in their breeding, and have a show dog coming along that's really going to do some good winning, have not got time to stop everything and go for their judge's license. The people that run into trouble and who won't stay in dogs because they're not successful in

breeding and raising and showing, go into judging. I think that's the problem right there.

Walt: Yes. We have on the West Coast, a number of people that know the breed, but they won't do it.

Jan: They're too busy having a good time in the show ring and winning.

Walt: They could've probably done more good for the breed in judging than they did in the years they raised dogs. Because people, unfortunately a large number of Samoyed people, breed strictly to winners. If the judge happens to put up a crappy dog, they still breed to it because they assume that the judge knows what he's doing, that he's qualified, and a novice will assume that the dog that won Best of Breed is the best dog in the ring that day. Unfortunately, more often than not it isn't the best dog in the ring.

Jan: Many good people had such a good time doing other things in dogs that they just didn't want to stop and get their judge's license. Something else I think that hurt judges in the olden days, and that really disturbs me - in the early 60's they had an apprentice kind of thing, where you judged under a licensed judge for a few shows. And now, as nobody writes any bad letters - Ha! - writing letters doesn't mean anything. They won't go any place with those! (laughter) That's ridiculous. The whole selection of judges probably should be revamped. I haven't any ideas to pass to A.K.C. on it, so I'll keep my mouth shut about that ... But they used to have an apprentice program where you had to judge a couple or three times under some other judge. Then he'd critique what you had done instead of him. And that was where all of the good old all-arounders came from, that are now almost all dead, why the judging in the 60's was superior to the judging that we have today. The only decent judging we've got now, by and large, but I would say that the best judges that we've got now are old long-time ex-handlers.

Walt: All-arounders, ex-handlers.

Jan: Ex-handlers that have handled dogs for more years than we have been in dogs. They have 20 years of handling all kinds of dogs. These are people that had to make their living at it, so their dog eye had to be pretty damn good.

Walt: Of course, the problem is compounded, particularly in California, because that's what we're familiar with. I remember 10, 11, or 12 years ago, the president of the Eden Kennel Club, who was a good friend of ours, coming up and saying, "Oh, my God, we've got a thousand dogs at this show!" And when we started showing, 800 or 900 dogs was a big entry. Now Santa Barbara has 3500 dogs, most of the California shows up until this year were 2000 or 2500 or 2800 dogs. Then A.K.C. in turn put a limit on the number of dogs a judge should judge a day. I remember one day, Isidore Schoenberg judged 305 dogs. Of course, now it's

175 dogs. So you have double the size of the entry, and have cut in half the number of dogs a judge can judge. So A.K.C. was, I think, very desperate to get enough judges to go around. And consequently a lot of people ... it's not so much getting their original breed, their one first license, because that is a little bit difficult, but after you become a judge and have passed your provisional and want to add on breeds, I think you just get them with no effort and no knowledge whatsoever; no test or no really great requirements. And consequently we probably have a lot of judges out there that really have never seen, and don't know anything about, the breed that they're judging.

Jan: And that's fine if one of the breeders of a hairy dog goes to judge dogs that don't have any hair. But when you go in the other direction, you get some real problems. I know breeders that I really think know a lot about dogs, who can really get fooled by coat pattern and the way a dog moves under his hair. There's a real trick to judging the hairy dogs, and it's not an easy thing to do. You really have to know your dog anatomy and put your hands on lots of dogs and see. That's where we run into problems, where perhaps the judge may be an outstanding Dobie judge, and then they get into the ring with the Sammies and the Collies, and they don't know what they're doing.

Walt: Because of hair. Of course, it's disheartening to see somebody that raises and breeds Chihuahuas, and judges Chihuahuas and Min Pins, and so forth, is all of a sudden applying for a Samoyed license.

Jan: The worst offenders are the Terrier judges. Terrier people think that all of dogdom has to be built like Terriers.

Walt: That typical Terrier front.

Jan: Hound people I love to see, because you'd be surprised how many Hound people can judge Sammies. The Gun Dog and Sporting dog people, I always like to see those people appear as breed judges, because the Sporting Dog people are kept honest by one thing: Field Trials. It keeps them honest! (laughter)

Walt: You cannot argue with a judge that is obsessed with type, because we all have our idea of type, and that's a good legitimate thing. But when a dog has some fundamental faults, wide front, cowhocks, crabbing, short-coupled, and so on and so forth, it's appalling to see the number of California dogs that have moved with a front that you could drive a truck through and never touch.

Jan: There's no excuse for that.

Walt: Terrier people insist on putting up these dogs with weird fronts. It is fundamental to a Samoyed, it must single track, period. Our Standard says so. Our Standard says that a Samoyed that moves cowhocked should be severely penalized. It's one thing to stand cowhocked, but it's another thing when a dog moves cowhocked. I've



Princess Perusq & Kauzja Bowntz - Brace, 1st

seen cowhocked dogs getting points and getting the Breed, which is very discouraging. Either they don't know what they're doing, or they don't know the Standard. I am of the opinion that they've read the Standard, and they don't know what they're doing. Of course, we have a number of Northern California judges that do their judging by who they recognize in the ring, not particularly breeder-judges.

Jan: That will have to be edited!

Walt: Unfortunately, I think this is a problem in all breeds.

Jan: Sammies have improved over the years since we started looking at dogs and going to shows in the early sixties. Rear ends are much better. Hips, of course, are much improved. You know, that would be a good article to write for The Samoyed Quarterly, about the improvement of hips. But the fronts - Sammy people have got to get going on doing something about their fronts. I don't think it's gotten any worse, but it has not improved. A Shepherd friend of ours who really knows his Shepherds, and has gone to judges' school in Germany, and who really knows his anatomy, did a fun match for us. He said, "I can't believe the fronts!" I said, "Well, I tried to tell you Sammy fronts aren't very good." "Not only," he said, "were they awful, but they were awful in so many different ways, every one of them!" He was right!

Walt: People say the dogs aren't as good as they used to be. Well, there were great dogs in the '60's, but this idea that the dogs aren't as good

as they used to be ... well, that's a bunch of baloney.

Jan: They're better in the hips, for just one thing. They're better in the rear ends for two. The temperaments are ten times better! Now I don't know if that's true for the rest of the country, but it's true definitely for California.

Walt: When my wife and I got married, I was a liberal Democrat, she was a conservative Republican, and after 25 years she's a liberal Democrat, and I'm a conservative Republican.

Jan: I remember what my Dad said, "Well now that Wally's going into business for himself he's going to become a Republican." And that's what happened.

The next thing that we worked on here after hips is ... I've always been a front nut. You just can't have a nice, flowing, balanced side gait without a good front. All you have to do is take your dogs through powder snow, and work them. All of a sudden it makes a believer out of you as far as fronts are concerned. They just cannot get through deep powder unless they can get their legs up and out; that's what they have to do. In fact, they can get through deep powder snow being considerably cowhocked with a good layback and a good front. I'm a nut about fronts.

Walt: A good sled dog can stand here rather straight in stifle with a long hock. A good dog that I have always been fond of is Madeline Druse's Ruble. He had a straight stifle, not as straight as some you see, but a

long hock.

Jan: A high hock and not terribly angulated. Gertrude Adams ten years ago kept telling us the problem about overangulated Sammies. I thought, we're not ever going to see that in Sammies. But I'm afraid that the last six years I've been seeing them quite often, and one of them was one that came from our breeding program, which surprised me. After jumping around and messing around worrying about hip dysplasia first, and fronts second, we finally ended up with some dogs that did well in the show ring. Our handling skills got better. Then there's Baron, of course - everybody had seen his picture single tracking, and I've had more fun with that picture, waving that in front of Shepherd friends that really are knowledgeable. You can not imagine how much fun I've had! He'd been doing it for some time before it dawned on us that he was in a flying trot. No one expects a Sammy to go into a flying trot. But you know, we worked so hard on getting some good laid back shoulders and some good gait. Baron's greatest fault is probably a lack of prettiness in the head. But you know, I'll bet you Baron, in all the winning and so on that he did with some super competition, that wasn't what he won on. What he won on was his "pizazz" in the show ring. He's just a nut! He loves dog shows, and he just would bait for anything that looks like food. He's bouncy and lively and very much a show dog. He throws some nice things in his puppies, but I think that the most important thing that he throws is that showmanship. We're back to our original thing, showmanship is everything. It took me a long time to figure that out - there was a variety of other dogs that he'd been in competition with that were not as sound as he was, but they were also very showy and flashy. They were always pulling out divergent types of dogs with Baron, and I'd wonder why is he considering my dog with this particular dog? It doesn't make sense. Then finally it clicked in my head that it was the showy flashiness. So here after all these years of battling around with good hips, good shoulder layback, all of this soundness - my dog wins because of his showmanship! (laughter)

Walt: We feel that Baron, in his prime, was the best mover in California. Nothing other than Ice Way's Cubie in Southern California could compare to Baron.

There are a couple of dogs that are quite good in Northern California, as far as movement is concerned, three or four of them ... but nothing compared to Baron. It's the only thing he won on, he was 100% in the show ring. There were a few exceptions - there are a few breeder-judges that recognized that this was a really moving dog.

Jan: But he won on his showmanship.

Walt: In most cases on his showmanship. There are a few breeders

that looked at that dog and said, "My God, he can move!" But one of the funny things - when we got this gaiting picture of Baron, we published it in *The Samoyed Quarterly*, then everybody else decided that they were going to have pictures of their dogs moving, whether they were moving properly or not.

Jan: Just like Doris McLaughlin's pictures out in the woods.

Walt: Doris took some pictures of her dogs out in the woods, and then everybody started taking their pictures out in the woods. When we saw that picture of Baron, we took it to one of the people in the Bay Area that we consider one of the top trainers, Tom Landers, and he looked at that picture for a moment, and said, "My God, a flying trot!"

Jan: That was one of our Shepherd people that we knew.

Walt: All four feet were off the ground.

Jan: In the proper stride.

All four off the ground at the same time?

Walt: All four off the ground at the same time with the proper crossover.

Now in *Hounds*, you have what's called the double suspension gallop.

Walt: This is a trot, with the proper crossover also.

Jan: You never expect a Sam to, but ...

Walt: The German Shepherds are supposed to have it, period.

Jan: But a flying trot ... still back up on Baron ... all the bones and everything have to be in the right place, but if your dog has not got the muscle coordination and the muscle tone, it doesn't make any difference how well the bones are put together, it's still not going to have a good gait. Through the years that is something else that I have come around to. When you first study anatomy, it's all bones, angles of bones, and so on. But there's more to it than that. It's muscle coordination and stamina, and a nerve-muscle thing. There's more to it than just the angles of the bones. Good exercise can never hurt any dog. I've seen some rather poor dogs that were brought around through some good exercise

The other thing that Sammies are getting into, and we're running into an awful lot of them is inelegant, short-necked dogs. It's getting worse. Sammy males have got to have a long neck for balance, and it can throw their whole gait off if they've got a short neck. If their neck is short, it's going to throw their whole balance off; they are going to start weaving and wobbling, and they'll have to carry that center of gravity forward. Not only that, but just for plain artistic, pleasingness to the eye, you've got to have that long neck. Because if the Sammy males carry a big ruff, and if they've got a short neck, it looks like they have no neck whatsoever. I've seen an awful lot of short-necked Sammies. People

are in for a big, big siege of short-necked Sammies. What short-necked Sammies means is no Group placements. Unless you can pay off the judges.

Walt: And problems with fronts.

Jan: Problems with fronts that really aren't there. Because a dog that has a really good front and is in good muscle tone should be able to look around you and come right straight at you, single tracking, without doing any wobbling. Besides, to look up at you would throw his head this way or that way, and if his neck is too short, his front will flop around.

Walt: One of the reasons we picked Baron - that dog is ten years old, going on ten years old now, and I've never seen him hop across the yard.

Jan: Even as a puppy.

Walt: From the time that he was a puppy he trotted. He will cover the length of our yard as fast as the rest of our dogs, but he has never in his life broken a trot. I have never seen that dog break a trot. That means he's properly structured. That's what he's supposed to do.

Jan: That whole litter was that way. They were moving around well by 4 1/2 or 5 weeks old, and they never had cute little puppy hip-hops. They trotted everywhere, right away from the beginning. There is that muscle-nerve kind of thing again. If you want to turn me off, show me a bunch of cute puppies that are going hippy-hoppy, hippy-hoppy. It tells you something about bones or nerves or muscle coordination. I remember calling the owner of the stud dog and saying, "My God, the puppies are five weeks old and they are all trotting all the time! They never hip-hop." That's another problem with judges too; so many judges think that if a dog is making a lot of fast movements with his legs, he's really moving fast. The dog that really has a good length of stride often gets penalized because he's taking one step and the other dogs are taking four. So many judges don't understand, and think this dog is really working because his legs are really going. We've seen that happen so many times! (laughter)

What does Wally do?

Jan: He has a Kirby Distributorship, and sells and services vacuums.

You used to teach?

Walt: Yes.

Why did you give up teaching?

Walt: The independence of being in business for yourself is great. Besides I didn't like the "babysitting." There's a tremendous percentage of people whose kids are just being babysat while they're either coffee klatching or working or something. In California so large a percentage of women work, and somebody's got to take care of the kids. So all they care is that we babysit them while they're out there. It's a lot of work.

You taught too, didn't you?

Jan: I agree with everything he said.

Walt: One of the big problems

write somebody that knew these dogs. In the meantime, you got a lot of good information out of that person because they'd had So-and-So's mother. So they'd write you and send you a few snapshots. You had to run these things down. For one thing, it made some really good lines of communication that you could never, never have gotten started any other way. You also ended up learning some things about pedigrees. Nobody in Sammies any more can tell you anything about aunts and uncles and great aunts and uncles. Most of them probably don't even know the names of some of these dogs. They are not making connections, and that's another good theme for an article. I'm just becoming appalled. I should be able to turn around to some of these other people who have gotten dogs in the last ten years and say, "Have you done this type of breeding with such-and-such a dog?" And they don't even know what I'm talking about. These aren't idiots at all, smart people.

We talked about the fact that people today, you felt, were present-oriented. Now you've gone into this about pedigrees and research. We notice that in most breeds that we're involved with, there seems to be a great desire for historical information, like what happened in England? And what happened in Russia? Or in the case of the Doberman, what happened in Germany?

Jan: Where they originated from, but not their pedigrees. Not their background.

Sammy people at least are interested in that, my breed isn't. It seems to be just today.

Walt: Sammy people assume that if they have a champion dog and a champion bitch, and they breed them, they're going to have champion puppies. But we all know that if you have a tall, blonde, Swede man, and breed him to a tall, blonde, light-skinned Swede woman, you're going to get tall, blonde, light-skinned kids. If you take an Italian who is usually considered short, olive-skinned, and dark haired, and you breed to an Italian girl, that's the type of kids you're going to get. Now if you breed an Italian to a Swede, you might get one great big tall, blonde kid, and you may get another kid that's short, olive-skinned, and so on and so forth, and then a lot in between. Well, a lot of people don't realize that the background of the dogs that they come from will have as much effect - the grandparents and the great grandparents - will have as much effect on their breeding as will the actual dam and the sire. Unless they know what's back there, how the hell can they breed with any accuracy or with any kind of goal or with any kind of success?

How many litters have you bred?

Walt: We had one litter with Kiki, and then we had one litter with Randy, we had two litters with Prinnie. Can we count our litter with our Doberman? We had one litter with Cheefa, with Prini, and Randi. We had one

litter with Bowntz. We had three litters with Chelika. I think in 22 years we've had 10 litters.

So you really have bred sparingly.

Walt: Yes. We only breed when we want a puppy for ourselves; we don't breed as a business, to sell puppies. We don't make any money on our litters.

Does anybody?

Walt: Yes. Lots of Samoyed people, lots and lots of Samoyed people do make money at it. They have a litter and don't usually pay a stud fee, because they've got a deal going, and they'll sell a bitch with a certain amount of money, and you have to pay me two bitches. They'll sell a dog for a certain amount of money and two stud services. They're going back and forth and making a very, very good amount of money that way, and spending absolutely nothing. We do not let our puppies go until they're twelve or fourteen weeks old. We have a preliminary hip x-ray on them and they've had all of their shots. From the time that they're weaned until they leave, they eat ground chuck - not hamburger, ground chuck - and cottage cheese. They get organically grown food.

Do I look like a puppy? (laughter)
(Joke: Lyn came for dinner.)

Walt: This is what we do, because we have always felt that if you have a healthy puppy, one that starts out right, you're not going to have a sick dog. The worst thing in the world is when you have those one or two dogs that you sell as show dogs, to show homes, or to breeders, that are great, but pick a puppy that's had a poor start, and a sickly start, for somebody that is a pet owner. Within two or three years they have got two or three hundred dollars in vet bills that they can't afford, that puppy's going to end up in the pound, or something like that. The right start, the right nutrition, means a healthy pup and a healthy adult.

How much should a good Sammy puppy sell for?

Walt: Well, that's a loaded question. Of course we've always felt that we don't want to give a puppy away, because if somebody invests two or three hundred dollars in a dog, and being materialistic as most Americans are, they're going to take care of that dog simply because of their investment. In the Bay Area they're \$250 to \$350. There are some people that have consistently sold their puppies for more than \$300, but a good, well-bred, well-cared for Sammy should sell for at least \$250 or \$300.

Jan: Just on inflation alone. They were selling for \$100 in 1960, with the inflation rate the way it is \$350 probably isn't enough.

What was your best litter?

Walt: We've produced some litters with one outstanding dog, and with more than one outstanding dog. But I think, overall, our first breeding of Baron and Chelika. Our first breeding of Chelika and Baron produced Sabrina,

whom we finished at the National Specialty, and produced a dog named Toby here in Fremont that has seven or eight points; should have been finished, but never was. And a dog named Josh, who is up in Auburn, California. His first show out ever was at the San Diego Specialty, and he went Best of Winners. And Yumpin in Norway, who has just been a fantastic dog, and the daughter of Yumpin. Some people from Sweden with Koko, out of Pushka and Chelika, were in Norway with Yumpin, and said we've done more for hips in Scandinavia than anybody has done in 100 years, with those two dogs. But those are the three dogs that have been shown and there are a couple of dogs in that litter that are better than Sabrina, Toby and Josh, that haven't been shown. But of the seven that are x-rayed, six are OFA excellent. That is what we are proud of, sound dogs with good hips. Unfortunately we have not been able to produce from that litter.

Jan: You see, he couldn't give you a straight answer!

Walt: Chelika had eleven in that litter and nine survived. We have three vets in the Bay Area that we think very, very highly of; very, very good vets. They're relatively young vets that don't pat you on the head, and say, "Now go home, and everything will be o.k." If they don't have an answer, they find an answer. Their universal opinion is that Jan and I have been quite stupid in kennel management. Our current fertility problem is not hereditary, it's kennel management.

Jan: That we are waiting much too long for our first litter. It's on their recommendation that from now we will be breeding our bitches the first time under at least 18 months of age. My favorite litter is the one out of Cheefa and Balalika.

Walt: That was a great litter!

Jan: That's the one that Chelika was out of. I just like that litter; they weren't the best litter, I don't think, but they were my favorite litter as far as soundness and gaits, and so on. They were best as far as temperament is concerned. I think overall the litter out of Pushka and Chelika was very, very fine. I liked the style and type of those dogs - long necks, very white coats, very black eyes, superb heads, good side gaits. There were a couple, or three, in there that didn't have the world's greatest fronts, but by and large they were showy, elegant dogs, with good temperament and super movement, and they were good producers. I never thought we'd ever produce a brood bitch like Chelika. Never in my life did I have the foggiest notion that I'd ever end up with a dog like Chelika. I just love her.

Walt: Of course, Balalika, that we bred Cheefatu to, was one of our favorite dogs.

Jan: Yes, he was super. Very highly inbred old White Way, White-Krystal's Balalika. Very typey, with black points and black eyes. He was a



Baron & Chelika - wedding picture.

lead dog, a very sound dog that you could bank on for certain things. At that particular time we were strictly selecting on laid back shoulders. That's why I liked Cheefa. She was out of Charm and Nachalnik, she had the best laid back shoulders.

Have your dogs been debarked?

Walt: Two of them have.

Jan: Our males have been because they're screamers. They are the ones that must be cooped up, neither one takes to being kenneled.

Walt: They're not totally debarked. They go in and perforate the vocal cords and they still bark, but it's not that high-pitched, and it doesn't carry. Prior to having Fabri debarked, you could hear him two blocks away. Now you can't hear him.

Jan: He'd shatter glass.

I've run into this in many places.

Walt: You see, a lot of people think it's horrible to debark your dogs. But in California, where property is so terribly expensive, you just can't go out and buy two or three acres; first of all, it's not available. In the Fremont area, you're talking about \$200,000 and \$300,000 an acre. A few miles away

from here you're talking about \$150,000 an acre. And homes - the average, median home here is \$130,000 to \$150,000. So you just can't up and move. The laws in Fremont, as far as dogs are concerned, are very liberal and very good. As long as you don't annoy the neighbors. So when it comes to the point where you get neighbors around you, for the sake of the neighbors and happiness, you must debark your dogs. You don't have a choice. There are a number of people that have been severely criticized about this. But you do have a choice: debarking your dogs or getting rid of them. I think debarking is the lesser evil. There are two or three people in the Bay Area that debarked their dogs a number of years ago, and we kind of looked at them with dirty looks.

Jan: We were country then!

Walt: We were country then, and we gave them dirty looks and looked down at them. But then we came to the point to where we had to debark dogs because we were no longer country anymore. I'm sorry we didn't debark a few dogs sooner, because we would have been much happier. But it is your

choice in California - debark your dogs or get rid of them. Because in California you can get away with a lot of dogs, but if they create a nuisance, with the neighbors, you're in trouble.

How much land do you have?

Walt: When we first moved out here, fifteen or sixteen years ago, we had two or three acres. We're down to about a half an acre now. The city took most of it for a park; we had no choice. So we have a lot that's 80 feet by 360, and next to us is a neighbor that has a very big lot that was never developed, so we're in good condition out here. We have very, very good, understanding neighbors.

Jan: There's a new neighbor in the subdivision across the street ...

Walt: He's from Colorado, so he's different! (laughter)

Jan: He also moved in with a noisy, yappy little Pomeranian, which made us grin all over our face.

Walt: For years we have made it a point not to be pests in the neighborhood, not to have complaints. When we go away for any length of time, we don't put our dogs in kennels and we have some nice kennels in the back. But we have a dogsitter. We have for years and years. Our dogsitter is somebody who comes in and stays with the dogs; because we think owning dogs is a privilege, and we enjoy our dogs. But we also do have an obligation to our neighbors. We appreciate the fact that they don't hassle us. Our power is to not give them any reason or any cause to hassle us. So we have a very, very good situation, plus a city that's quite broad-minded. We have a Hobby Breeders Ordinance in Fremont, and you can have five, six, seven dogs, and you must be licensed to have them. You're inspected yearly, and you do have to meet certain regulations. But as long as you're not a nuisance, you have no problems. When you become a nuisance, health-wise or noise-wise, then you're going to be in trouble. But we are lucky in Fremont because of the ordinances, and because of the very good animal control. They are oriented toward breeders.

Jan: They recognize the fact that the hobby licenses bring in a lot of money; breeders are the ones that pay their salaries. But they do inspect your animals.

How much is a hobby license?

Walt: Twenty dollars a year.

Then you have to license each one of your dogs, so by the time you pay \$20 a year for your hobby license, and \$10 a dog, you pay maybe \$90. We are very glad and willing to pay it.

Jan: We had several people in Fremont, over the years, that crammed as many dogs they could on their property and really caused some problems.

Walt: There was the case of a lady that in an ordinary lot had 52 Basset Hounds. The stench was unbelievable! That was the year that we organized the Fremont Kennel Club. Helene Spathold, another fellow, and I

were involved in that, and somehow or other we got involved with this lady with the 52 Basset Hounds. She wanted us to get on her side and go to the city and animal control, and stick up for her. We went out and saw the situation, and we were appalled. The stench, the condition the dogs were in.

Jan: There have been other abusers.

Walt: Overall, Fremont animal control is very, very good, and we're very fortunate. There was a trend in California, eight or nine years ago, that started in Southern California, for very restrictive laws on animal control. That was '73 or '74. All of a sudden it stopped dead, I don't know whether it was the oil embargo or the election or the phase of the moon or what. But all of a sudden this was a dead issue in California.

Jan: Dogs are not allowed in parks in the city of Los Angeles. I think it may have started with all the damn druggies with forty dozen dogs trotting all over the place. They also tried to put in a thing like that in Orange County - very, very restrictive dog laws. Like a no-dogs-at-all kind of law. Dave Richardson was very instrumental in rolling back some of the restrictive dog laws.

Walt: Very, very instrumental. People in Southern California don't know what they averted.

Jan: They do not, and they don't give him credit for it.

Walt: A lot of people in Southern California probably wouldn't even be able to have dogs if it weren't for Dave Richardson. Probably a good example of that is if you go to Sather Gate in Berkeley at night - that's the entrance to Berkeley U.C. campus - and you'll see as many stray dogs on the streets as you will see people. They're all over the place, and of course stray dogs do their thing all over the place. So people that are non-doggy do have a legitimate complaint, and ... I remember when we first came to California and lived in a tract house. Every morning I'd clean the dog dumps off my front lawn. My four dogs were never in their lives on my front lawn! So non-dog people aren't just bitchy people and crabby neighbors. In many cases they do have a legitimate complaint. Dogs messing all over the place and barking. I think that we have six or seven Samoyeds - we were up to fourteen or fifteen but we're down now. We complain under our breath to ourselves about a dog that's about half a block away, in the backyard, out there all night long barking, and it's an irritation to us.

While we're in this discussion about dog ordinances, how often do you think that the serious breeder, the conscientious breeder, is one who's responsible for Mr. Citizen's complaints?

Walt: Quite often.

Jan: Serious and conscientious are two different things.

I'm combining the two.

Walt: A conscientious breeder is usually not the problem. But there are many, many dog fanciers, dog breeders, that are the worst abusers of all the common laws and common decencies. As an example, we were at a motel a few years ago, and some people had some large working dogs, four of them, in their motel room. They decided to go out to dinner and left their dogs in their room. These dogs dismantled the room; they tore the mattress apart, they tore the drapes down, they completely destroyed the motel room. Now these are people that have been showing dogs for ten or twelve years. These are conscientious dog breeders and exhibitors?

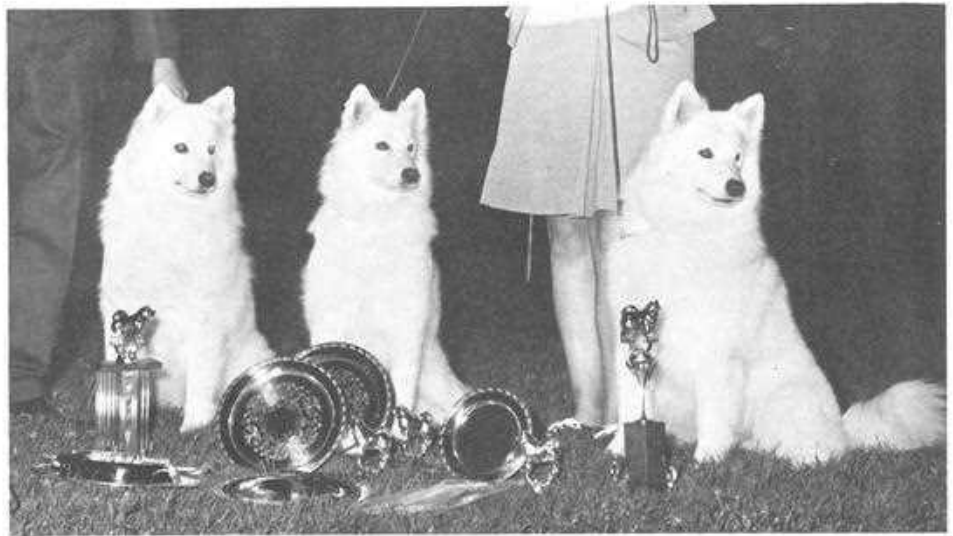
Jan: That would go off for four or five hours and leave their dogs in the motel room?

Walt: Twelve or thirteen years ago, we knew one of the top Poodle breeders in the Bay Area. They had

wasn't like they were cramped in small quarters. One night she came home for the weekend, and it was like eleven or twelve o'clock on Sunday night, and got a call from the police that her dogs were disturbing the neighbors. Same couple of people who always turned them in. She said, "That's funny because my dogs have been at the kennel all weekend, and they're not here!"

Jan: There's always somebody in the neighborhood that is going to make a fuss about something. When that happens, more often than not, the person that is organized about their dogs, and has several, is going to get picked on. When it's really the dog down the street who is running around peeing on everybody's bushes.

Walt: It's a problem. You must remember that five or six years ago in a one year period, the animal control in San Jose put down 79,500 dogs and cats in the animal control. Now can



Silveracres Cheefa, Princess Perussa & Kauzja Anatktuvuk Ana

29 Poodles, in the garage in crates. Now this was a lady that was well-accepted and well-known as a breeder throughout California. The stench and the noise was unbelievable. Just because they happen to show dogs and be breeders, doesn't mean they are angels or something special.

I guess what I'm getting at is often the community attacks the person who has several animals, because they are more visible. There was a case, where they were trying to it in the Baltimore ordinance, so strict, with two dogs and \$25, and licenses, and the whole deal. We had a big hearing, and I remember my friend got up and she said she had five Shelties and two Shepherds, and she bred both breeds and was very seriously into obedience. The example that she gave was, she was always getting complaints, and I'd been to her house many, many times. She got out and cleaned the yard every day, and it was a large yard, and they were in and out of the house so it

you imagine to break that down per day, how many dogs and cats were put to sleep, abandoned, strays, people that brought litters into the pound? So that means that there were an awful lot of stray, unwanted animals that were bred that should never have been bred. By and large the biggest part of the problem was caused by non-show people. But that does not absolve show people, because there are some.

Jan: That's right, because many of those people have a nice pet dog, and decided they want a puppy, find a champion male, and breed to it.

What about the purebred dogs that Doktor's pet stores peddle?

Walt: Of course that comes to the basic problem that Jan and I have always said: the greatest disservice to any breed is when you sell a puppy, and you sell it at a reduced rate and say, "Ok, you will breed this puppy two times and I want the choice dog out of each litter." That is a great disservice to the breed. A lot of people do that,

and that means that instead of getting \$100 for that puppy, that puppy is worth three, or four hundred dollars, because of what will come back. This causes a great deal of problems.

Jan: Now he's not talking about two breeders, two serious-minded breeders who work a deal like this; take this puppy, have puppies, and give me a puppy back out of that litter. He's talking about somebody who comes in with some cute little old pet puppy, to a show person that has a champion male, and says, "Ok, now this is what we're going to do." They sell the puppies and you come back for stud services.

Walt: Of course, there's the breeder that has twelve or thirteen dogs in the backyard and breeds them, and the whole crew barks all night long. It's a universal problem all over the country.

Jan: The population density, and prosperity.

Walt: I do think that some breeders are cognizant of the problem; there is just overbreeding of all pets. But there are certain things that the person that shows dogs can do to try to alleviate his own problems. First of all educate his neighbors, and be thoughtful of your neighbors.

Jan: Communicate with them.

Walt: Communicate with your neighbors. Keep your yard clean, never let your dogs run loose, and those dogs that are problems, debark them. If the situation arises, debark them all. But by communicating with your neighbors and talking with your neighbors, letting them understand your situation, you have no problems at all. We have several old-time Portuguese families around us, who are not dog oriented. Not animal oriented, period. They are content, and they never complain. But we don't let our dogs bark at night. We also say, if our dogs are bothering you, come and let us know.

Jan: Let us know, because we can do something about it. If they're bothering you, let us know. That kind of communication that we have had with some of these older people; and anybody who could get along with one particular lady who was the cranky, old biddy in our neighborhood, could get along with anybody!

Walt: The last time we got our license, the animal control man said, "What's wrong with you people? You have never had a complaint." But we work at not getting any, because we enjoy our dogs. I'd be crushed if I had to get rid of any one of these dogs. I'm not flush enough to pick up and sell everything and move somewhere else, I don't have that kind of money. Realizing that, we will do anything under the sun to prevent getting into trouble.

Jan: Our males are noisy.

Walt: That's why we had them debarked.

Something you may have asked awhile ago, when we were discussing

judges; what can a person do about the quality of judging? One of the things you can do is stop after the judging and ask the judge what he thought of your dog, or why he didn't place your dog. Or ask him why he placed a certain dog, and bring to his attention a certain thing - a dog may be cowhocked or wide in the front.

Jan: That's silly! You're just going to get a stupid answer.

Walt: You're going to get a stupid answer, but you will accomplish one point. Because when that judge goes home, and he may forget about that, and then a year or two later he gets a judging assignment in Northern California again, he's going to remember that little incident at ringside. So he's going to look at the Standard and he's going to start inquiring, and he's going to be a little bit more careful when he comes back. Now there are a couple of idiots to whom it won't make any difference. You could hit them in the face with a pile of horse manure and they wouldn't know any different. But the average person, if he's been put on the spot in the ring, and he goes back a year or two later, and he's afraid ... in this case it happened in Northern California. Shirley Mangini has put a lot of people on the spot. They're going to remember Shirley Mangini, and they're going to be prepared for her. The only way they're going to be prepared for her is by studying that Standard and doing the better job. Right now that's about the only thing you can do, to go back after the judging. To go to the coffee shop and bitch about what the judge did and bitch about it weeks later does not do the least bit of good. But asking that judge, and putting him on the spot after the judging, in a nice, intelligent, civilized way, is going to alert him that the next time he comes back, he'd better know for sure. This isn't going to change things overnight, but over a period of years I think it will have its effect.

Jan: By this Wally doesn't mean walking up and saying, "Why didn't you like my dog?" Be intelligent and cordial and don't insult them; don't put them on the defensive. Act kind of dumb, like you're trying to get some information.

What do you think is the best dog you've ever bred?

Walt: That really is a subjective question. With different values and different ideas, when you look at what is the best thing ... Chelika is probably the best dog we've ever bred because of what she's done for us. We've never been able to get a point on her, because in the show ring she'd yawn and lay down. She's not, probably, conformation-wise ...

Jan: Oh yes she is!

Walt: She's a very good dog. I think Cheefatu is really the best dog we've ever bred, but she has some little personality problems.

Jan: In the show ring, but a great dog to live with.

Walt: A hard question ... Personally, I think the best dog we ever bred was Princess Perussa out of Hondo and a dog named Lady June Petite. Prinnie was a dog that I remember we went on a show circuit up in Washington, and the day before we left Washington, I took her on a 2 1/2 mile bike jog. Here's a dog that had fantastic movement. I came home and threw the ball for her for a half an hour and collapsed. Then we got in our van and went up to Washington to three shows, and she did not place. Now here's a dog that could move to the end of the world. Here is a dog that you could take out in the wild and let her go, and she would survive. She had the movement and the structure, and the "upstairs." She looked at you, and she had that wild look. She had that look like ... don't challenge me, I'm your equal. But she had a short coat and was in and out of coat all the time; not particularly pretty. She could outlast any Samoyed in California at that time. One of the comments that the judges gave us was - not a very sound dog. The judges didn't know what they were talking about. The crap that he put up that day, he should've gone out and shot himself. But in our own experience, here was the soundest dog that we had at that time, and I thought she was a fantastic dog. As far as the best dog we ever produced, it's really hard to say. Baron was sound.

Jan: Terribly sound.

Walt: Not what we wanted in the head.

Jan: He's not got the prettiest ...

Walt: Fabri has the prettiest, but his front could be better.

Jan: About the worst front we've had on the property for years.

Walt: Sabrina - we did some fantastic winning with Sabrina. One of the biggest wins we ever had with Sabrina was the Samoyed Club of Los Angeles Tournament. We had Bob Krauss as a judge, Madeline Druse, and Lou Richardson, a Siberian breeder. There were 20 dogs entered that day. She was a class dog, and they picked her.

Walt: All the judges judge the dogs individually by points, and they pick the best dog there.

Jan: They all have to agree on the same dog.

Walt: Sabrina won, and we're very, very proud of that win. But she's not what we want. A fantastic show dog, but her size ...

Jan: She's not quite big enough for us, with not quite enough leg.

Walt: Not leggy enough, a little bit more bone than ... Although she was probably our biggest and best winner.

Jan: Outside of Hondo.

Walt: I think we'll do a lot of winning with Fabri. We've got some fantastic dogs in the yard. Fabri's littermate in Oakland, a dog named Saba, is everything we want in Fabri, plus a little bit more. But the people

want him for their own pet companion and guard dog. They would never, ever think of parting with him; they're not show-inclined, they're not interested in shows. They would not think of parting with him for three or four hours to go to a dog show. He's one of their family. You can't really answer that question, what's our best dog?

Jan: I think the best dog we've had is the dog that's coming out of our next litter! It had better be, because that's the whole point. Or you can just go out and buy yourself a winner. Don't go through all the fuss and bother of raising puppies, just go out and buy your dog. The next time you need a better dog, just go and buy one.

Walt: Theoretically, each litter that you have should be better than what produced it, and improvement over what produced it. It doesn't always happen, in many cases it doesn't happen. A good dog and a good bitch do not necessarily produce good puppies.

Jan: Wally and I are getting to the age now, though, where the body is giving out. My arthritis has really been bothering me the last few months. This is something that goes on all the time, the sprained ankles. If it's not an ankle, it's a knee or something! It's just old age. So we're going to have to go with a handler, or a small breed, or something. That's the one problem with really sound, good moving dogs - you've got to keep up with them! Now I'm serious about that. The best dog that we will breed will be coming out of our next litter. Keep your fingers crossed. (laughter) But I really can't say which of the dogs that are already on the ground, which one is the best.

Walt: All of them have their own particular features that we like, and of course you - the average human being is flattered if a dog pays attention to you. If somebody comes in and you have a litter of puppies, invariably the puppy they pick will be the puppy that

runs up against them. Subconsciously they're flattered by the fact that this puppy thinks they're great and so on and so forth. So consequently, due to that special relationship, she's my special dog and I think she's super, subconsciously I may not see her faults.

Jan: Tutu is really a good dog.

Walt: Conformation-wise, she is a good dog.

Jan: But she's not got the temperament for the show ring at all. The ones that are really great to live with are the ones that are the pits in the show ring, because they can't get interested enough and up enough in the show ring. She really didn't like strange people putting their hands on her.

Walt: It took six years to finish her.

Jan: We'd quit and say, "That dog is staying home!" Then we'd get her out again. She's done a lot of winning, she had majors back to back one weekend, and Best Opposite a couple of times over a bunch of really hotshot dogs. She was Winners Bitch at the San Diego Specialty. We finished her with three majors.

Walt: I think of all of our wins, that was the best one, finishing Tutu. We worked hard, we had faith in the dog, but she did not have the show ring temperament. We knew she was a quality bitch that should have been finished. Now she's in obedience, and she will have a C.D. degree before the end of the year. She is really a brain.

Jan: Here again, that's a different temperament. I do think that you're never going to have success in breeding dogs unless you can come up with good show ring temperament.

We got our Dobie, and the first six months we owned that Dobie, I learned more about Sammies living with that Dobie than I had really put together in my head before that. I think everybody that's serious-minded about breeding a show dog should have a dog of another breed, really quite different, to kind of bring to focus everything you've learned about your original breed. I love Dobies because they are great athletes with great muscle tone and coordination and everything. But I can't stand dogs with no hair! I never knew where to scratch a short-haired dog! But I love watching them move.

What is the ideal Samoyed temperament?

Walt: That's really a hard question.

Jan: I'd have to think about that.

Walt: First of all, we're supposed to be breeding these dogs as they were originally in the original setting in Russia. Well, none of us really know what it was like then, originally, and what the Samoyeds were like. They are a far different dog today. In all probability, they're larger physically; but all dogs are larger because of nutrition and care. But from what I can see in the pictures and reading, they are not quite as long in body. They're



Kauzja Azzagi

an entirely different dog. So in the ideal Samoyed temperament, I want a mischievous dog. I want a dog that challenges you.

Jan: Which means smart.

Dominant?

Walt: Dominant and smart. If you have a dog that challenges you, that is smart.

Jan: No, not dominant, but equal. I don't mean domineering, dominant over you; I mean a dominant personality.

Walt: No, not necessarily. I like a smart dog and I like a clever dog. I like a dog that if you scold them a little bit, it doesn't really faze them. Tutu is that kind of a dog and Fabri is that kind of a dog. You scold them for stealing some food off the counter, really scold them, and ten minutes later they're back there stealing again.

Sounds like a dominant dog!

Walt: They're an equal. I think if you find a dog that is very intelligent, and mischievous, that's the personality. That carries over into the show ring and everywhere else you go. If you have a deadhead in the show ring, you probably have a deadhead everywhere else.

Jan: I think that's their vice. We are always very, very partial to the smart dogs here.

Walt: We've had some really smart dogs.

Jan: I find that the dogs here, that are my favorites, are the ones that are the smartest, and the ones that aren't very smart, aren't!

Walt: Our Princess Perussa would watch you unlatch the gate twice, and she could do it - and she WOULD do it.

Jan: That's why all our latches around here are special dog-proof latches.

Walt: And Chelika, mother of Tutu, if you'd put something in the drawer that she wanted, and a month later you'd leave that drawer cracked half an inch, she'd get it right out within a matter of two or three seconds.

Jan: And Koko appalled us.

Walt: I remember one time, Mary Miller made a German chocolate cake for my birthday, and they brought it over, and for some reason put it on the table out there; for some reason we did not eat it right then. The Millers were leaving, and we were out talking to them. Koko pushed the chair back, got upon the chair and up on the table, and was up on the table eating that German chocolate cake. We came in, and of course there was a scream, but it didn't faze her in the least; she just kept eating it. Smart as a whip.

Jan: Thank heavens it was Mary's German chocolate cake from scratch. She owned Koko's sister, Snokandil!

Walt: We like that dog that gives you that wild look, the "you've got me this time, but my turn is coming look." Alive and wild.

Jan: We have a pneumatic unit



Ch. Kauzja's Silver Baron

on the back screen door, and the point of it is to keep the dogs out. By the time she was four months old, Chelika had learned how to get that screen door open.

Walt: She'd pull it out and put her paw in, and get in.

Jan: It took the other dogs about two weeks to realize that Chelika went in the house through that screen door. Then they'd get her to open the door for them.

Walt: This is the temperament we like.

Jan: Now a lot of people don't like that kind of smart dog; they want something that lays around like an old rug and doesn't get in their hair. But Wally and I don't.

Walt: This all goes with a healthy dog.

It sounds to me as if you've gotten into dominant and submissive behavior, and alpha dogs and beta dogs.

Jan: Oh, that's what you meant!

You seem to be describing the alpha dog. I'm not saying that he's dominant over you.

Jan: Sometimes alpha dogs are dumb. Alpha dogs don't necessarily have to be smart. Often they are just the biggest or the biggest bullies. But I'm talking about bright dogs.

Walt: Of course there are a lot of breeders who really can't judge Sam temperament because they are not too level themselves. How can they be a judge of good temperament?

Jan: I know a lot of people that do drive their dogs crazy, now that you think about it. They've really screwed up their own dog's personality because they didn't know what they were doing. How to bring them along. Any time you get a dog with a screwy temperament, look at their owners.

Have you run into any examples of what you consider bad temperament?

Jan: Not lately.

Walt: That's not a problem in Northern California. We've had one or two dogs that have been bad in the past. But that could be a case where you have two males in the same household and a bitch, and vying for leader of the pack or the top dog. You've had a couple of cases in the past where dogs have bad hips, or not feeling well, and as a result of this being in constant pain.

Jan: I was going to say that. Two things have a direct correlation - bad hips and the bad temperaments. The temperaments are really better in the dogs that we have seen on the coast, just generally speaking. Also the incidence of hip dysplasia. I know very few dogs that I have felt have really had an unsound temperament. But they scared the wits out of me. We had some around in the 60's that did have very suspicious rear end problems, and they probably were in serious pain.

Walt: I think we only have one dog in Northern California now that is of questionable temperament. Again, the problem probably is the people, and not the dog. Like the dog at the end of a six foot lead in a strange place, dogs walking all over him, and the person busy gossiping and not paying attention to the dog. All of a sudden there's a fight, it's the people. But no, Northern California has not had a temperament problem, I don't feel.

Jan: For about 12 years now. But anytime you run into a Sammy, or a dog, that has got some temperament problems, always check it out before condemning the animal. I really think that the people are ...

Driving the dogs to drink?!

(laughter)

Jan: That's what's wrong with Tutu. Wally drove her crazy!

Let's get into breeding a little bit. I know that you mentioned that you don't like to sell them before they're twelve weeks old. Going back to before they leave, when do you like to wean your puppies? Do you help the bitch when she's whelping?

Jan: Yes, we help extensively with whelping. I don't subscribe to the view that the bitch ought to take care of all the puppies, because in the wild, she would do it all. In the wild Nature culls. In the wild she would end up with three or four puppies, regardless of whether she had nine. I'm in the business to raise dogs! I am taking the part of Nature in the culling, and so it's my choice, to breed Sammies to Sammies. I'm already interfering, so I'm also obligated to do some other interfering, and I intend to do so. If I want, say, eight or ten puppies, that means two litters. If I let Nature take its course and lose half the litter, well that's three litters, or that's three pregnancies. So I do help her in order to make sure that you end up with seven or eight puppies, instead of two. I'm an organic gardener, so I'm very much for working with Nature, but I feel that in helping the bitch, we are working with Nature for all of those puppies out of the litters to survive. If we let Nature run the affair, then the bitch should be selecting her own mate; running down the street to breed with the neighbor's Shepherd.

Walt: Of course in original surrounding, people didn't pay \$200 or \$300 or \$400 stud fees and fly her across the country for breeding. So consequently you must help the mother. We are not willing to risk the loss of the dam because of some blockage or

breach, or something like that. We will help her as necessary. Again, in any animals that have multiple litters, particularly in dogs, wolves, and foxes, that may have seven, eight, nine, or ten in a litter, very rarely do more than three or four survive after one or two days. In many of the animals that burrow and have their litters, and must stay with their litter for two or three weeks, before they go out to seek nourishment, that puppy that does not survive is her nourishment until her puppies are old enough, and she's well enough to go out and hunt for her nourishment, and so she can come back and feed her young. So in the wild, you would only have two, three, or four survive, not nine or ten.

Jan: I have never yet seen anybody who says, we should let Nature do the job, who don't think twice of going down as soon as the whelping has ended for a nice, big antibiotic shot. They aren't the least bit willing to let Nature take over and cull mothers. If you have postpartum infections, you lose the bitch or the litter. I haven't seen any of them that are willing to do that, or if the bitch starts running a temperature? Well, if you're going to go with Nature, go all the way!

Walt: I will say that Jan can look at a puppy when it's out of the sac and evaluate that puppy. I have not seen yet where she has been wrong.

Jan: Conformation-wise.

Walt: On conformation. She can look at a puppy when it's born, and that's something that Helene Spathold may have taught her.

Jan: No, I learned that from Dobies.

Walt: But she can look at a puppy when it is out of its sac, and she can tell you many, many things about that puppy that a lot of people could be

with it for 20 years and not know about it.

Jan: I do think that right away in the first few hours you can tell more about rear end, shoulder placement, and so on. That's usually when I first pick, and I have found that to be a very good thing.

Walt: I brag about her because I wouldn't be safe tonight after you left if I didn't!

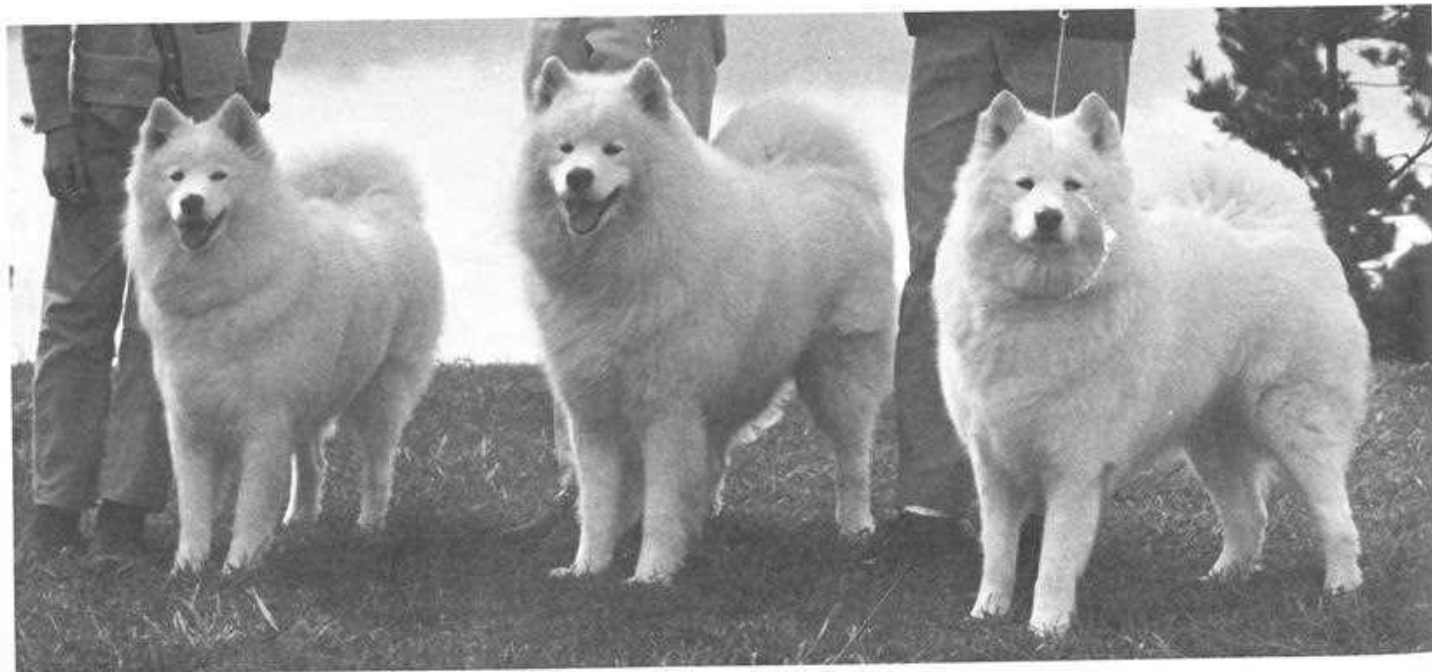
Jan: I learned very little about choosing puppies from Sammy people; that was something that came from Dobie people. There was another thing on that question you asked about Nature, and that was something else I wanted to add. What was the other half of that question?

When do you wean the puppies?

Jan: There's a new underground thought about weaning puppies, early weaning of puppies as far as temperament is concerned. That is early weaning - getting the puppies away from their mothers very early - is good for puppy temperaments. Because if mothers are with them too long, Mommy gets to be alpha dog, which she would in the wild, and the puppies never develop independence and self-confidence. I have found that to be very accurate. We were very worried that the temperament on Tutu puppies, we would end up with temperaments like that. So Dobie and Shepherd people we know, Tom and Kay are coming out with a book ... in fact, I contacted Don about two or three years ago to see if he would be interested in doing up a book on this method of weaning puppies, but I don't think the Lams got to it yet. I don't think it's even been submitted.

No, we don't have it.

Jan: I wish they would because it makes sense. Kay's idea about that



(left to right) - Ch. Silver Snokandi, Ch. Sun Valley's Snow King, C.D. & Ch. Drayalene's Rocotta of Kauzja

early weaning has really made some difference in the show ring temperaments, with their Shepherds. Fabri, Jasmin and Saba were all weaned at four weeks old, and are all confident monsters. Some litters ... Dobie litters are ready for weaning at four weeks old, without question. Most of the Dobie litters I've seen are ready for weaning earlier than that. They're very easily weaned at three weeks. Dobies are up and walking around before ten days. Shepherd and Sammy litters definitely need to go four weeks. I've known some Sammy litters that at four weeks probably weren't ready for it. But I think as early as possible take the mother away and keep her away. Those puppies have got little, sharp teeth, and they're ready for cottage cheese and whatever.

Walt: In the breeding, this was her part; all I do in that, weaning and that, is I wash the rugs! (laughter) And I do a good job.

Jan: He also picks the judges. I bathe and groom the dogs, get myself and the dogs ready to go, and Wally just puts everything in the car and tells me what weekends we're going to have shows and who the judges are going to be.

Walt: I pay the entry fees.

What do you feed your adult dogs?

Walt: When we first got into Sams, we tried Purina, and for about two years we had diarrhea problems, then we went to KalKan. KalKan was great, then all of a sudden we couldn't get it anymore. We've been with Kenl Biskit for a long time; we've tried Waynes, we've tried Iams. Well, a couple of weeks ago we had a case of bloat with Baron. Of course all the vets feel that any corn-based feed is harder to digest, and they don't know what causes bloat; nobody does yet. But it seems the general opinion of some vets is to a wheat-based. So we're going to Nutro now. Dr. Reid, our old vet here, and Helene Spathold's vet, said when you feed any one of the dog foods, you never have to give a vitamin supplement for adult dogs, because they've got it in there, and that is a criterion - they couldn't advertise anything else, so this is what they advertised. We are going to Nutro now, because we had, for the first time since we've been in dogs, our little bout with bloat with Baron. It wasn't serious, and we were on top of it right away and it worked out fine. We give our dogs boiled or fried eggs all the time, we give them raw hamburger; we go to Safeway and buy the cheaper hamburger, and cottage cheese.

Jan: We keep coming back to them, a sort of basic, middle-of-the-road meal. Not the most expensive, not the hottest, not the high protein, but an in-the-middle kind of thing. Not the cheapest, but in the middle. We supplement with cottage cheese, eggs, and meat. Heavy on eggs.

Walt: Absolutely no canned dog food.

Jan: Never!

Walt: Because it's 80% or 90% water, and so much of it is just horse meat.

Jan: We've tried all kinds of screwy diets and "hot" dog foods, and by hot I mean high protein, and we'd get some problem with one dog here or one dog there, so that an allergy or a kidney problem, or a liver problem or something would come up, and we always would come back to our basic meal. Through the years, breeders that I know that do a lot of experimenting, I have found out that they end up with the same thing - trying all kinds of food and going back to the same thing. Canned dog food is a waste of time. The quality control on canned dog food is worse than it is on the cheap meals. I do like a wheat base, and we have been on a wheat base. Dog foods change. I would stay away from the corn based dog foods.

Walt: Companies buy and sell out, and change management, and so on. Change accountants - I think probably that's the worst part; they change accountants, and the accountant thinks they ought to make more money, so they'll cut this or add that. Then when their sales go down, they decide they're going to hire some hot-shot nutritionist to boost up their sales and they add a lot of stuff.

Jan: And upgrading too, they sometimes upgrade. I don't like a hot dog food for adults. Every time you introduce one, you get into trouble. I do like a hot meal for the puppies. We start our puppies on meal very early. None of this crap with milk and pablum and all of that. All that does is give a dog diarrhea. I've converted an awful lot of dog people to that kind of feeding of puppies. How are they supposed to digest the milk? They don't have the enzymes for it.

How did you come to sell a dog to Norway and Sweden?

Walt: Well, we were at a Specialty here in 1973, the National Specialty, and I was the show chairman, and of course got very well acquainted with the superintendent. A couple of months later a Siberian breeder was here from Sweden visiting; because although he had lived in Sweden for about seven or eight years, his parents were from the Bay Area, and he had come to visit his parents. So some people in Sweden who bred Samoyeds asked him to buy them a Samoyed. So he contacted the superintendent, and he gave them our name and address. So he called us up, and we gave him the names and addresses of a number of people that had litters. We didn't tell him that we had a litter, because we weren't really interested in sending a dog overseas.

Jan: Well, he didn't ask whether we had a litter; he asked who had litters.

Walt: So, he went to visit them, then he called us and wanted to know if he could come out and visit us. We

said fine, and he came out. We happened to have a litter ...

Jan: The Chelika and Pushka litter.

Walt: We weren't the least bit interested in selling a dog, and he came back a few days later and said he wanted a dog out of that litter. We had this nice male, and we finally agreed to send him to Sweden. And from my understanding of Sweden, they have a lot of trouble with pigmentation and hips. Kauzja's Cochise of Snow-cliff is his name, and he really did wonders for them!

Jan: He had a really good litter. with a sound bitch that he was bred to shortly after he got out of quarantine.

Walt: So some people in Norway bred to him, and they were very interested in another dog from us. So we sent Yumpin out of our next litter. Incidentally, Yumpin, the name we got on this dog, we wanted to name it something that would be Norwegian, since Jan is of Norwegian ancestry. We didn't know any Norwegian names except the old Swedes and Norwegians in the Pacific Northwest "Yumpin Yiminy." So we named the dog Yumpin, and we sent him to Norway. That was probably the best thing we ever did in Samoyeds, was to send dogs to Sweden and Norway, because they did lots of nice things. Koko has 20-plus Scandinavian champions, Best in Show daughters, and several International champions, too.

Jan: He's been the top Sammy stud dog. Well, now, last year he wasn't because one of his sons was.

Walt: He produced good things, and also we got a really good education out of that in their breeding practices and principles compared to ours. We're going back to what we used to do, breeding earlier. But they produced some good stuff. Apparently they did have pigmentation and hip problems, and particularly Yumpin did wonders. That was the best thing we ever did. Of course it's been delightful dealing with people in Norway and Sweden. They correspond back and forth, and consequently ... from Norway, we have another bitch coming.

Jan: Now that's a deep, dark secret. We'll just wait until she gets here before we tell somebody; that's a secret. Because then when we ran into fertility problems with the bitches that we had here, we didn't like anything that anybody else was planning on breeding, so we decided to march off and get one of those dogs, and see what is coming in from that bunch.

Walt: She's not coming out of the whelping box for five years. We're going to nail the whelping box in the kitchen and keep her there for five years! (laughter)

Jan: All our dogs are getting elderly around here; our youngest thing is Fabri, and he just turned four last weekend.

Walt: We had a birthday party for him.



Int. Ch. Kauzja's Americ Polar Bear Nordic - Yumpin pulling their four year old daughter, Ming.

Jan: So we have to get some new dogs around here.

Walt: There's one thing that's very surprising, that we learned in this process of exporting dogs. It appalls me, the thought that there are a number of American breeders that are shipping dogs overseas, and that they always ship their crap overseas. Now to us, if you're going to send something overseas, you're going to send the best you've got. But I guess all they're interested in is the buck that they get out of it. The dog gets to wherever it's going overseas, they're not going to get it back, and they're not going to have to worry about refunding the money. But to us, we wanted to send the best that we had, and we sent two really good dogs. Consequently, we have probably a better name in Norway than we have here. We sent the good stuff back there, from Pushka and Chelika, and Baron and Chelika. The way that some of the American people have dealt with foreigners ...

Jan: We're talking more about some of the dogs that were sent to Mexico and South America, rather than Europe. There are not that many Sammies being sent to Europe.

Walt: It's been a very delightful experience, with some very, very delightful people. Of course, all their letters are just a thrill.

Jan: That's very scary, sending a thirteen or fourteen month old puppy eighteen hours on the plane overseas, going into quarantine for six months, and then you sweat the x-ray. It was really a scary operation. Of course they'd had puppy scans before they left us, but even so ...

Walt: Dr. Maahs is our vet, and he x-rayed all of our litters since 1965 at twelve weeks. Of course, you don't know from the x-ray of a puppy at twelve weeks that it's going to be clear at two years. But if there are any serious problems, you can spot them. Of course every one of our litters he's x-rayed, and so many relatives and all that; he has all their x-rays on file. So, knowing our own background, we're not as worried about that, as about

putting that dog in that little box, and he's in it for 18 hours.

Jan: At least.

Walt: Mrs. Mjaerum, in Oslo, Norway, also breeds Golden Retrievers, and she's a top breeder of Golden Retrievers.

Jan: Sammies are her second breed, and she's probably got the top Golden Retriever in Europe. I've seen pictures of him, and he's just absolutely wonderful.

Walt: It only costs a few dollars to call there in the evening; eight or nine dollars for three or four minutes. It's been a very delightful experience.

Jan: Just because of the people.

Walt: We've really enjoyed them.

Jan: Just them, not all of the good bragging about us. Beyond that, they have just been delightful people.

Walt: It's enjoyable too, to take our Norwegian and Swedish and Finnish magazines that we can't read, back to Jan's home area that is Scandinavian, and show all these Scandinavian people.

Jan: (laughter) Right. It makes a bigger hit with my home town than here.

Walt: Her home town people talk about it, and they jabber in Norwegian about it, and in Swedish, and we don't know what they're talking about. But they're thrilled with the fact that they see our magazine, and our dogs in the magazine. All around it's been a very, very delightful experience.

What advice would you give to

someone who's just starting out in Samoyeds?

Walt: Don't. (laughter) The dog game today is expensive; feeding a dog is expensive, dog shows are expensive, entering and showing and traveling is expensive, and veterinary bills are expensive. I think that a person should have a dog for a couple of years and really study before they really do any serious showing, and find out whether or not they got a show quality dog. It's very, very discouraging to see somebody in the ring week after week with a dog that just can't win. Because then they start looking at themselves and looking at their dog, and it causes some problems. Of course you always get the people, and we've seen dozens of them over the years, that happen to buy a good dog, go in and win like hell, and finish them. All of a sudden they want another class dog, so they get another dog, and they don't do any winning, and then they quit and you never see them again.

Jan: It's very hard to start out ...

Walt: With a big winner, and then lose.

Jan: It's very hard after you've had a good winner to start all over again with your next dog. You've forgotten the struggle, as you've been racking up Breeds and Group placements. What a struggle it is to bring along a brand new dog and get him or her ready to go back in the classes again! And that point right there is where you



Kauzja puppies



divide the sheep and the goats.

Walt: If you start out as a new person in dogs, (we were very fortunate because we had Helene Spalthold) but I've seen so many times since then, is that you start out and don't get out from under the thumb of one person or one bloodline. Know all of the people that are showing, know all of their dogs; study their dogs, look at their dogs.

Jan: Study pedigrees! And look and read.

Walt: Just because you happen to have a son or a daughter of a champion dog or bitch ... people will say, "Gee whiz, there are 23 champions in our pedigree," that doesn't mean a damn thing. You've got to find out what a dog should be, what the Standard calls for, what the Standard means. You must be able to fault your own dog. You will never ever be successful unless you can fault your own dog. Because how the hell are you going to know what you're going to breed for is if you can't fault your own dog?

Jan: If you want to breed, you have to be able to fault your own dog, because you can't even handle them if you don't know what their faults are. You've got to know so you can cover up, and you have to know what his good points are so you can show those so that the judges know.

Walt: You have to be able to say, "Well, I don't have the perfect dog, and he may not have the greatest front, but I know he's better than those dogs, and this is what I can do to him." The fact that he has one fault doesn't necessarily make him a bad dog, it just means that this is something that in later generations you're going to have to overcome. If you can fault your dog, you can study pedigrees and backgrounds, and then you have some foundation for doing a better job.

Jan: And develop that eye for quality, you must develop that eye for quality. I think the other side of that is kennel blindness, and everybody is to a certain extent. We chugged along for several years, and I thought I was free of kennel blindness, and then we got Yusa. By the time he was about five

months old, I was absolutely bonkers over Yusa. I can't to this day give you an evaluation of Yusa, I'd have to get some pictures out, because there was an emotional spark that went through the air with Yusa and me, and it went vice versa. I was afraid to put Yusa in the ring, because I was afraid if he didn't win, I would kill that judge! Now this was an experienced dog person. (laughter) This was not my second or third dog, this was about eight, ten, twelve years into it. I learned something about being a little more sympathetic towards people that really got totally kennel blind on one dog. The best dog people I know always have one dog that they are just crazy about. Of course, vocally you can stand back and recognize that you're not all there, and you've not got all your marbles as far as THAT dog is concerned. Hopefully, you can step back a little bit and at least try to be objective about him. But there are some people that are so kennel blind



Ch. Kauzja Sabrina

that they do not recognize, or cannot see, quality elsewhere, and that is very bad. Everybody's kennel blind, but can you recognize quality elsewhere, and if you can, that will be your salvation.

Walt: The most important thing if you're going to be in the dog show game and you're going to breed Samoyeds, you must learn to handle, and you must learn to be a good, aggressive handler.

Jan: Yes! You've got to learn how to handle, and that's a lot of work.

Walt: Jan has been showing dogs for twenty years now, and she still regularly goes to classes. She's still picking up things in handling. We take new dogs to dog classes, and we can still learn. You must learn how to handle and you must be confident and aggressive in handling.

Jan: California has got the best owner-handlers; even general, run-of-the-mill, owner-handling in California

is excellent. And excellence breeds itself. I've known some really good handlers over the years, some good professional handlers, that have done super jobs.

Walt: They must also learn to be able to win and to lose, to evaluate, and to not begrudge a person who has better dogs. So many of the people that come into dogs don't know how to lose. Particularly those people who come in with not very good dogs.

Jan: And not much skill in handling.

Walt: They devise all kinds of excuses; politics, or this was set up, or the judge doesn't know what he's doing, and so forth. They find all kinds of excuses, and invariably it's the case of not too good a dog, or poor handling. Then of course if you do get a judge in the ring that is weak, that doesn't know what he's doing, the last thing in the world he's going to do is to put up some klutz that doesn't know how to handle at all. He's going to look for handling.

Jan: For somebody that looks confident, too.

Walt: Actually, a tremendous percentage of judges aren't judging the breed, they're judging showmanship. They're judging handling, they're not judging dogs.

Jan: Well, that's not really a bad way to go if you're in a pickle and don't know what to do, and you're trying to make your mind up between two or three dogs.

Walt: One thing I won't comment about, people ask us when we're going to get out of the breed, probably when Harold builds a house!

Jan: About every five years Wally and I go through this phase, "We're getting out!" (laughter)

Walt: When Harold builds his house, we'll get out of Sammies. But we're pretty safe.

Jan: We just finished our five year cycle about last spring. I went so far as to start looking seriously at some Pugs, but I couldn't stand that business of their eyes popping out of their heads.

Do you think advertising influences



winning?

Walt: That's a real question. I think there are lots of other things that go with it. Over a period of years, we had a big winner in California. When that dog went into the ring, he was immaculately groomed. Jim, his handler, was immaculately groomed, looked like a gentleman out there. He did a good job of handling. I did not like an occasional dog that he handled, it was not my type, or I thought there were better dogs in the ring, but they were good dogs. But you take a good handler with a dog that is immaculately groomed, well-presented, and it wins; if it's properly advertised, here's some judge sitting back in Podunk, Mississippi, he just got his license for Samoyeds, and in Mississippi he's probably never seen more than three Samoyeds at one time. He comes out to California and walks into an Open class and there are 25 Samoyeds there. He's going to look, and he's going to see this and think, "What the hell am I going to do?" He is going to see a picture of a handler, or whoever it may be ...

Now, years and years ago, Jean Blank, when she showed Yurok, had two dresses; they were the same type - squaw dresses. She never, ever went in the ring with any other dress but that dress. Yurok was a fantastic dog, he was immaculately groomed, a fantastic showman and loved showing. He loved Jean and Jean loved him. And that squaw dress ... he won a couple of Best in Shows; the same thing comes down to it - some judge from way back there would look at the AKC Gazette and he'd see this white dog with this squaw dress. He'd come out to San Francisco or Northern California as a judge, and he'd look up in the ring, the Specials ring, and all he could see was that damn squaw dress. It was advertising. Jean admitted it at that time that it made a big difference.

Jan: HOWEVER, Yurok would have done a lot of winning ...

Walt: Regardless.

Jan: If Jean has worn blue jeans!

Walt: Advertising isn't going to help you get a big win from a crappy dog over the good dogs. But good dogs and good handlers and good advertising ... It could make a difference.

Jan: You could rack up a few Group placements that you probably wouldn't have gotten, or some Breeds that you wouldn't have gotten.

Walt: Particularly if a judge can't decide, or is wavering. I remember seeing that guy in The Samoyed Quarterly in that checkered jacket!

Jan: But you see, winning in and of itself is also good advertising. You do have to do some advertising, and it does help. But also winning does it. Because judges get around. You take the all-arounders that can do anything, they do it here one weekend, and someplace else the next weekend. They're sitting here doing Hounds, and they're waiting for the hounds to come in, and here is this Working dog here, and they

see the same person and the same Sammy, and they watch them. Then six months later he's judging somewhere, and he sees the same dog in the ring. Well, two or three months later he's judging the Working Group himself, and my gosh, there's that same Sammy and that same lady. "I know what's going to be my first, but my second, third and fourth ... I've seen that Sammy around; he should have the Group!" (laughter) Because judges sit there and second guess each other. So the winning - that kind of winning, that kind of momentum, you see in the Group. You'll probably pick up as many wins from that as you do from the advertising.

Walt: There are a couple of judges that have told me in the past that when they're going into a new area, a breed that they're quite new in, that they will look at the various magazines of that breed or the A.K.C. Gazette, and if you go into the ring and you put up a dog, Winners Dog, Best of Winners, Best of Breed, that's never been in the show ring before, you're going to get a lot of flak. But if you put up a dog that has already gotten twelve, thirteen, or fourteen points, nobody can criticize you. Because there are five or six other judges that thought this dog was really good. I think it probably affects some judges. The proper type of advertising I think is essential. And in The Samoyed Quarterly, of course!

What's a fair stud fee?

Walt: Well, there are a couple of Samoyeds that the owners have paid you to breed to. That would be embarrassing! Or they'd give you a ham or something just for you to breed to their dog. It's a relative thing to all the people. In California, now, in this area, \$250, \$350.

Jan: Your stud fee should run just about what your price of the puppies should run. Now there's some feelings about that. We are not public stud dog owners. I think Doris McLaughlin and Connie Richardson, who have had males at public stud, ought to be voted sainthood. I could not put up with people, it just would drive me crazy, having bitches in and out.

I just couldn't. Wally and I have found out a long time ago, that isn't fun! About the only time we ever have an outside stud service is for a friend or for a bitch that we really, really like.

Walt: Or if we're interested in using the progeny of that breeding.

Jan: Right. Following that all down the line. I want a puppy from that one's grandkid. But not just for all comers and brood bitches. My philosophy on stud services is probably not the same as a lot of people's. I think if you are charging \$300 for a puppy, then I don't think a stud service of \$300 is out of line. There are some places in the country where stud fees are lower and puppy prices are higher, but I don't think if you have a cham-

pion male who's had a nice show career, that \$250 is out of line.

Walt: Enough to discourage a person who has a pet Samoyed and wants to have one litter to make a few bucks.

Jan: I do not go along with this old bullshit that, "If I don't breed my Ch. male to that crummy bitch, they'll just go and breed to somebody else, and I'm upgrading the bitch if I breed my male." Baloney! The only thing you're upgrading is your pocketbook.

Now I know mongrel horse people go in for that kind of thing a lot, but they do a lot of strange things with genetics. Horse breeding and dog breeding have no parallels. Anybody with a nice Arab stallion would breed to anything that walked in through the gate with the stud fee. I still have not recovered from the news that Secretariat's first foal was from an Appaloosa mare!

Cow people don't operate that way. The only people who ever use a bull for upgrading their dairy herd was somebody that had just a bunch of really rotten, scrawny cows. And he really WAS upgrading his cows. He was too poor and financially strapped to go out and buy himself some good dairy cows. But that doesn't apply in dogs; there it's an economic thing. If the bank won't loan you money to buy four or five truly good, top-notch milkers, then you're in dire straits and you have to go that route. But it does not apply to dogs. Really good dairy people do not compromise their bloodlines the way that horse people compromise theirs.

Walt: All this comes down to ...

Jan: (laughter) Do you realize what that would be comparable to in Sammies? Any Sammy that you bred to anything, including the Dachshunds, you would register as a purebred Sammy. That's what the Quarterhorse people do.

Walt: All this comes back to, are you in this as a hobby or as a business? The stud fee can be determined by whether it's a business or a hobby. I have in my shop all kinds of people. People will come in and look at my dog, "Oh gosh, he's wonderful! You know, I have this dog, what do you sell your puppies for? Do you make any money? What's your stud fee?" I'll often say \$700 or \$1000 or something like that. They kind of gulp and walk out, simply because I'm not interested in them. Then I heard this one guy come in and say, "You see that dog? \$1000 for a stud fee for that dog!" That really impressed him. A lot depends on each individual, whether they're in it for a hobby or a business, or their own individual needs.

Is there anything we haven't touched on?

Walt: We've had a lot of fun in 22 years in Samoyeds, we've met a lot of interesting people. We've had a lot of disagreements and arguments in the past, one or two where I was wrong. (laughter)

Jan: I'm never wrong! (laughter)

Walt: But overall, in the dog show game, we've gone to places we never would have gone, done things we never would have done. We've done a lot of traveling ...

Jan: The fairgrounds in Walla Walla, Washington! (laughter) We never would have gone there!

Walt: It's been very enjoyable, it's been a real challenge, and we've had some real disappointments.

Jan: We've also had some real serendipities, a lot of things that have happened and a lot of wins that we had no notion that were going to be coming off.

Walt: That we well deserved. (laughter)

Jan: Well, that goes without saying. But people are being too heavy-handed, I think, uptight and

heavy-handed, about winning and losing. Show dogs in California are going to do a lot more losing than winning, regardless, so you'd better go and plan on having some other way of having fun. That is a good philosophy, and we've tried to do that.

Walt: There have been some dogs in California that have finished that should have never been in the show ring. When you see one of these people with a low, poor quality dog, that finishes, and then they show it and they bitch like hell because they lose in the Breed ring, it is very, very discouraging. It takes all the fun out of showing. A dog that should never have been a champion, should never have been in the show ring. This tells you a little bit about people, and it tells you that they've lost touch with reality,

what it's all about. It becomes an ego thing. It's very, very discouraging. The name of the game ... you're supposed to produce good dogs and go in the show ring and finish them, and out of them produce new dogs. This has probably been the one disappointment - there have been a number of dogs that I could mention that should never, never have finished.

A very interesting thing, several years ago in a dog show, a lady asked John Coloma and myself and John Chittum to evaluate their dog. We separately gave our evaluations, and they were the same. You've got a nice dog here, he's a nice pet. But he really doesn't have it - you're going to win a little bit, but not much. Within six months that dog was sent back to the owner; he was put under a professional handler and went Best in Show.

Jan: (laughter) They asked me, too. They asked me to evaluate the dog, too, and I said, "Nothing doing; get somebody else!" Traps are traps!

Walt: A big winner. And, of course, in the eyes of the two people that still co-own him, John Coloma, John Chittum and I were complete jackasses. But to see people that have a dog and look at it, and can't tell that they've got a crummy dog, or a mediocre dog, or can't look at a good quality dog and say, "That dog beat me because he's got good reach in front, good drive, balance, etc.," is very, very RARE.

Jan: Also, there's the sort of experienced dog person that is starting to do some winning, and then they start grumbling about the judges, but their grooming is not good. They never go to class, they never get their dogs out to train and to learn some handling things. Every time you turn around we or somebody else is showing them for the umpteenth time how to trim the dog's feet and hocks ... I get very discouraged and fed up with that kind of thing. Don't groan to me about crappy judging! These are people that have good dogs that should be winning and have done well. Then they start getting lazy, and finding all sorts of excuses for not doing some work. Showing and breeding dogs is hard work. I think that's why I always say unless you really are a very highly goal-oriented person, dog shows are not for you.

Grooming has to be done, training has to be done and a well-trained conformation dog has got to go to class all the time. You pick up bad habits. I mean Specials, too. You've got to get to class every so often, because you as an owner-handler start picking up bad habits, you start doing things that you don't even realize that you're doing. Then you get problems, and you blame it all on the judge, and losers blame losing altogether too much on the judges. If you go in with a well-trained dog, the dog well-groomed and properly groomed, with the hocks trimmed, and yourself in good shape and the dog well-trained, then you're going



Int. & Nordic Ch. Kauzja's Cochise of Snowcliff



Ch. Snokandi Hondo of Drayalene



Kauzja Chelika

to win.

Walt: There's one more very important thing. Anybody who's been in conformation for awhile should take their champion or one of their older dogs through obedience, and get a C.D. that is the most satisfying thing! You can get more pleasure out of that C.D. degree, working with that dog. Getting that degree will make you happier, more satisfied and give you a feeling of accomplishment more than anything you've done in dogs. My C.D. degree with Sabrina was just the greatest thing. I'm so proud of that! It was so much fun.

Jan: We have found the obedience people are just like the conformation people; there are the head hunters, as obedience people call them, that have to have that 199 1/2. Then you find the other bunch of obedience people that are helpful and stay around and have little tips for you, and are just as helpful and good and as supportive as anything. They laugh and enjoy.

Walt: It's a one on one proposition. It's you and your dog.

Jan: You either do it or you don't.

Walt: It's you and your dog out there. A lot of obedience people say, "Oh, hell those conformation people are ding-a-lings." The obedience people are just as ding-a-ling, and just as backstabbing.

Jan: You have the same proportion of that as you do the helpful ones.

Walt: But you're in that ring with your dog, and it's really an accomplishment that you can be proud of.

Jan: Obedience is fun, but I enjoy the conformation, and I get that same one-on-one feeling there.

Walt: Of course, she never put a C.D. on a dog.

Jan: (laughter) You get that same one-on-one in the conformation ring. If you go in and your dog is responding, and doing everything that want him to, and responding to all your signals about placement, and doing all those things, and showing like a million bucks, doing everything that you want him to, you have just as much satisfaction out of working with that dog in conformation. There is a sense of accomplishment there too, very much so. Don't think you don't have to have your dog trained in conformation. You start hand signals and body signals; you have to bellow commands out in obedience, and in conformation you don't. You do it all with your body English. They're already trained for hand signals.

Walt: We've been kind of lucky; we've had the advice and friendship of some pretty wonderful people - Helene Spathold, Haze! Dawes.

Jan: Well, that's two you can think of! (laughter)

Walt: Nell Collins in Seattle was really a help. And, of course, we've enjoyed the McLaughlins.

Jan: One parting shot: obedience is a lot of work, but conformation is, too. Don't grumble about poor judging and politicking.

Walt: If you don't present your dog properly, then you have no right to complain about the judging. There is a lot of basis for complaining about the judging, but you have no right to complain.

Jan: What about the old-time dogs?

Walt: Don't you usually ask that question? Who are some of the old

great dogs we knew?

Go ahead. You want to tell me about some of them?

Walt: We knew Yurok, and he was fantastic. He was a showman. We knew Sikandi, and Rokandi; she was the greatest dog in the world. She was something else; she ran that household of Helen Spathold. Rokandi produced many, many wonderful dogs, and a lot of dogs go back to him. He was the smartest dog you ever saw. The greatest trick was to drop a ball or a peach off a peach tree, and then when you bent over to pick it up, he would bark right in your ear. Then there was Ruble, Madeline Druse's Ruble, a great dog. Balalika ...

Jan: Prince and Juliet.

Walt: Prince Tyson and Juliet of Snow Ridge, but Rokandi and Sikandi were something special. When you look at all the pedigrees and all the dogs through out the United States, the Pacific Northwest and the West Coast and the East Coast that have done a lot of winning, a lot of people had ignored and forgotten about Shondi. A lot of the big winners all over the country go back to Shondi.

Jan: Who else? Duvella Kusler's Chayka was a nice bitch.

Walt: Their contributions weren't in quantity, but in quality. These are people who didn't produce a hell of a lot of dogs, but what they did produce was good!

We lived with Nachalnik for four or five weeks before Doris ever got her hands on him. He'd have been great if I'd had him! (laughter)

Thank you very much. ¶¶