

THE SAMMYED QUARTERLY

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C. Lewis

Samoyed People

The Samoyed Quarterly
Talks With
Pat Morehouse
KUBLA KHAN
Sepulveda, California

This interview was conducted at the home of Pat Morehouse in May of 1994 by Stacey O'Rourke.

*How long have you been in Samoyeds?
Since the 1960's.*

Why did you pick Samoyeds?

I originally bought a Beagle for my daughter at the Farmer's Market pet shop. The young salesman was leaving for Viet Nam, and he gave me his Samoyed, Icelandic Princess Zoe. She wasn't a pet shop dog. He'd bought her from a backyard breeder, but she was of good stock - a granddaughter of the Ward's old Ch. Clancy. When she was about a year old, I went to the Beverly Hills dog show and found out I could take her to matches, which I did. She started winning right away. At her third match, she was Best in Match. From there, we started going to the dog shows and she did pretty well. Then we decided to get a male to go with her and that's how we got Khan. We didn't keep the Beagle. All it wanted to do was howl, and it didn't suit the lifestyle of the neighborhood. Zoe was really what we wanted all along. She was about ten months old when we got her.

I started reading articles. The first time, I bred to "Sam," Ch. Danyln's Silver Coronet. He was a big winner locally at that time. He'd been bred to zillions of bitches and had not produced much, considering the number of bitches he'd been bred to. Sam was what you would call a "sport," pedigree-wise, and did not reproduce himself that well, emphasizing the importance of selecting a sire with good pedigree and quality. There were a couple of champions in his pedigree, but not many to reinforce the gene pool.

We decided to buy a puppy, and contacted the Fitzpatricks in Washington. They had a litter that had produced numbers one, two and seven in the nation, plus another nice champion bitch, all from one litter. I was looking for a male champion prospect. I figured I had good odds on this. There wasn't that much close linebreeding, but there was a lot of quality and the proof

was in the previous litter. The parents and grandparents were champions, and top producers as well. I put my reservation in and we got Khan. He arrived at thirteen weeks of age and he was already housebroken. Khan was a little doll and we loved him immediately. He always had the most delightful, laid-back personality. Even if he hadn't turned out to be a show dog, we would have loved him for his delightful personality.

That's how we got into the whole thing. For a long time, we just had the two



dogs. As we finished Zoe and Khan, people started to ask about puppies and stud service. The first litter with Zoe, bred to Sam, was a pure disaster. With your first litter, you often do all the wrong things. Although Sam was a very nice show dog, and probably one of the best dogs here, he was probably the wrong dog for her. Also, foolishly, I took her to a dog show while she was pregnant and she came down with a virus, and of the nine puppies, only one lived. It was horrendous. The one that lived wasn't quite right. She barely sur-

vived. She was undersized and her heart was damaged. It would have been better not to expend all that energy on her, but I always like to do whatever I can to help my dogs. Little Nannette was a pint-sized pup for a long time, that tagged along with us. She only lived until she was six.

I swore I was never going to have another litter, but as time went on, people wanted puppies. First of all, Khan sired four litters about the same time; he was in demand. His sire, dam and grandparents had all done very well producing and showing.

Khan's first litter in Oregon was bred by Mary English and produced Ch. Star Wind Khan Of Kazak, who is in back of many famous dogs, including Am/Can Ch. Star Wind Tsar-Khan. On the way to Oregon, we had stopped to see Sharon Eggi-man Hurst. She had a litter of eight puppies, of which four became champions. Ch. Capella later came to me. Sharon kept Ch. Sirius and Ch. Agena and Ch. Buffy was sold as a pet, but was later finished. Eleanor Dumas bred a bitch named Pepper, Ch. Lei Juana Cayenne of Viburnum, to Khan and I bred my Ch. Zoe to Ch. Khan. We had Ch. Zoe, who produced Ch. Silver Cloud of Silver Moon, Ch. Scherezade of Silver Moon and Ch. Siruka Sira Jandu of Kubla Khan. In a short period, Khan had a number of champions being shown, so people became more interested in him. Khan had finished at about two. I speialed him before he was mature and in his adult coat. I only sent him on two circuits with a handler. He didn't like going to Texas without me. Khan complained to me about it when he got back. Talk about spoiled! I couldn't bear to lose him. I used Ray Brinlee in those days, an excellent handler. Khan loved him. Whenever he saw him, he rushed over to him.

He loved him dearly. Even so, I didn't like to send him to shows with out me.

A lot of bitches started coming to Khan for stud service, so it was harder to send him out on circuits, especially on a school teacher's salary. Khan was never speialed as dogs are speialed now and he was never advertised. People didn't advertise in anything besides the *Bulletin* or *Quarterly*, or travel as much as they do today. I usually went along with Khan wherever he went, and I didn't go on that many circuits. Khan made his mark more as a stud dog than as a

show dog. On the other hand, I didn't let him service too many bitches. I always considered it important to not give stud service to a bitch that would not do the breed any good. He only sired 130 puppies, which isn't that many for a top sire. He was a top sire twice in *Kennel Review*. Approximately one fifth of his puppies were champions and half were pointed. Khan was still producing large litters at twelve years of age.

His mother was Am/Can Ch. Sam O' Khan's Tsari of Khan who I consider to be an ideal bitch. I last saw her at the Wiscon-

Nichol Bonnie Del Rio, a linebred White-way bitch that had been recommended by several people. She'd been bred by other breeders I knew. She belonged to a high school principal in Brawley, California. They said they might not show the puppies, but that they would be very cooperative and take very good care of them, so we went ahead with that breeding. It produced a number of champions. It produced "Lucy," Am/Mex Ch. Kubla Khan Lucita, Ch. Buran Del Rio, Ch. Del Rios Polar Khan Playboy and Ch. Khan's Conquista-

twenty champions I bred and six I co-bred. I haven't bred any litters for a long time, for two reasons: I prefer judges who aren't actively breeding; also, you should always be ready to take them back. Sammies can live for fifteen years easily and you never know when they might lose their homes. A breeder should always be ready to lend assistance to at least find them another home. I really don't want to have a bunch of puppies out there, as I'm getting older. Breeders have that responsibility. I'm 65 now and I don't want to have tons of dogs



Ch. Scherezade of Kubla Khan.

sin specialty when she was about thirteen, and she was fabulous even then. Khan's litterbrother Jingo had more Bests in Show than any other dog at that time, but has been surpassed by other dogs since that time.

Is that the reason you gave when you would refuse service to a bitch?

Mostly, he had an Excedrin headache. (laughter) That and the requirement that the bitches had to have their OFA numbers, eye checks and were show quality bitches that we knew something about. We did give stud service to one non-show bitch,

dor Del Rio. The puppies were lovely. The principal had five children and I think there were five puppies, and each kid always took a puppy to bed with him. The puppies were beautiful - just gorgeous - and they always looked terrific. He always put a can of Campbell's soup on top of their food to season it up, and he said the puppies loved it that way. He used different kinds of soup. I was amazed it didn't give them diarrhea, due to changing their diet, but they were just fine.

How many litters have you bred?

I've bred about 24 litters. I've had

drifting around out there as I age. I finished sixteen of the champions myself. There were many others I finished partially. On the application for my judge's license, they asked how many shows I had visited. I put a very conservative number down. I think it's actually in the thousands, but I put 200 or 300 down. I'm retiring and this is a good time to become a judge and give time to the breed.

I only had about one litter a year, sometimes two. I don't believe in breeding a lot at one time. Some people have multiple litters, and it must drive them crazy.

Once, when I broke my ankle, we had two litters, one with seven puppies and the other one with three. My dear daughter and neighbor came and rescued them all and took care of them, and me, until I could get on my feet again. When I hear of people who have four, six or eight litters, it leaves me gasping. I don't see how anyone can find good homes for that many puppies. I've heard some people say they need the puppies for replacements. If they were a little more careful in their breeding, maybe they wouldn't need so many replacements. You shouldn't have too many dogs with hereditary problems if you are careful.

"Princess," Kubla Khans Silver Moon, had an all-champion litter of three sired by Ch. Mister Williwaw.

Which dog is the best dog that you have owned or bred?

My favorite was Khan. He had his faults, but I liked him very much. I've let other dogs out at stud, but I have never really promoted another dog since Khan, because he was very superior in all respects. He produced his outstanding qualities, but not his lesser qualities. He had a closer rear, but he didn't reproduce that. Even when I bred him to bitches with closer rears, we would still come out with puppies

reproduced well. They had nice personalities. The sire was Ch. Mister Williwaw, and the dam was my Princess, Khan's granddaughter, from Capella, his daughter from Frost River Williwaw, bred back to Khan's sire Noatak, a top producer; Princess was Ch. Noatak's granddaughter. She was then bred to Ch. Mister Williwaw. This was a very distant linebreeding to Ch. Buddy Boy of Williwaw, one that went very nicely with my lines.

Thanks to Gretchen Raymond and Mr. and Mrs. James, who had done a lot of x-raying, we had very good luck with hips. We had puppies that were very showy with beautiful, stand-off coats. They were born baiting, stacking and showing immediately. (laughter) It seemed it was almost bred into them and they were really neat dogs, very nice to have around. I sold the pick bitch to Mavis Newbury in Canada, but then, because Mavis' marriage broke up, I got Holly back. Holly had already finished in Canada and had some American points, and then she won a specialty in San Diego for five more points. Later, when Holly needed one more major and I really wanted her speccial, I sold her to a woman who said she really wanted to special a prospect, but never followed through. She only finished her. I was disappointed that she was never speccial, because she was one of my favorites. Many breeders in such a situation keep their names on the dog until all conditions are fulfilled in a tight contract. I personally don't like to keep a lot of strings when I sell dogs. The main thing is a good, stable home.

One bitch I particularly liked was my little Katrina, a very beautiful little bitch, but I could never show her. She was a very nice specimen, but she would not show. She would not put her tail up in the ring or look happy. It was obstinacy on her part. It got to be a battle and it just wasn't worth fighting with her, so she did not get her championship, but she was a good mama. She was wonderful to have around the house. She kept the others all in line. She was very smart, but she was definitely not going to the dog shows. She didn't like them. I always felt if a dog didn't like the shows, forget it; I was not going to make them go when they didn't want to. It should be fun for the dogs, too.

Farrah had a nice litter, too. This is a Khan granddaughter from Whiteway lines. We bred her to Tina Deathridge-Schultz's Ch. FlashCube and got four nice champions. There was my Icy, who was a Group 1 and also Bennetts' Best in Show dog, Crizta's Little Drummer Boy and Ch. Carrie, who did quite well. Little Drummer Boy was at the last specialty and won Veterans - and he almost won Best of Specialty. He must be between eight and ten now. A nice dog.

Which dog would you say was your biggest



Ch. Sam O'Khans Tsari of Khan, Khan's dam (Pat Morehouse's idea of a superlative bitch).

However, they say, "If you breed enough you'll encounter everything. So don't have too much of hubris or self-satisfaction. No sooner will you brag, "Oh, we never have that," than you will see it in your next litter.

Is there a litter that was your best litter?

It would be hard to say which was my favorite litter. There are different things about every litter that I have liked and different things I thought were the greatest. There are several litters that are outstanding as far as having champions. Zoe's litters had some nice puppies in them. Farah had some nice puppies in hers, too. And

with good rears. Khan was very dominant for his good qualities, such as his type, front, gait and trainability. He was an ideal dog to live with. He kept order with the other dogs. He loved other animals, too. He dearly loved a kitten I bought him for Christmas.

One of the better litters I had was a litter including Ch. Mister Mauyak of Kubla Khan. He was from an all-champion litter, if you count Canadian. All three were Canadian champions, and two were American champions as well. They were all very typey and moved very well and they also

winner?

I always showed them and put them away. I really didn't have funds to pursue specializing. Very often I would co-own my Sams with someone. If they were girls, maybe they would have puppies. One time, I had about five champion males. That was too many for me. Ch. Silver Moon of Kubla Khan went to Elaine Valentine and Ch. Blaze went to his breeders, Yamasaki and Hamman. I had a daughter and was working and was limited financially. I

accuracy?

In everything, you have to look at the breeder, and it pays to find out the reputation of different people. They are probably okay, but everybody is human. We should be careful about things in general. I always give shots when the dogs come in from other places, and if I am buying a dog, I always re-x-ray just to be sure. Most of the Sammy breeders are very ethical and they will bend over backwards to do the right thing. Those are the people I generally deal

pedigrees are accurate. When people copy pedigrees, sometimes they make mistakes. I have found mistakes and have let people know, but it was probably an unintentional thing. You can send to AKC for an official copy of the pedigree if you think an error was made in copying.

How have you used inbreeding, linebreeding and outcrossing?

Carefully. I prefer linebreeding. You can only inbreed so far and you will start getting into problems in any line. This is



Ch. Kubla Khans Mr. Mauyak and Ch. Kubla Khans Dawn of Mayuak.

never really specialied Khan. I can't play in that league. If I got a dog back, I would finish it. I sold Lucy to a couple in Texas and when she came back, Rudy Munoz finished her promptly. Ch. Kolas Midsummer Night's Dream, a Khan son, came back with ear mites and whatnot, and we finished him. He later sired a Group-placing champion that was sold to Mr. Cooper of Alaska. Many of my champions were returned or rescued for one reason or another.

Can pedigrees in Samoyeds be trusted for

with and I will refer people to them. I won't refer people to just anybody. I like to refer them to people I actually know and who I feel will do a good job and who will represent their dogs correctly. They are people you can be sure will stand back of their dogs. This is probably true of about 95 percent of the Sammy breeders. However, we are human and there may be somebody there who I don't know who is not quite ethical. It is a large club, a large population. For the most part, I am sure the

one thing that disturbs me in Samoyeds. It is hard to find lines that don't have problems that you don't want to pick up yourself. You want to keep your strengths and still not pick up things you don't want when you go out. There are beautiful dogs around, but I wish soundness was emphasized more. Some people do not worry about seeing that the dogs are OFA'd and the eyes checked, as they used to. Those tests are not absolutes, but when you breed dogs, you should think about how hard



Ch. Scherezade of Kubla Khan.

something is to breed out once you get it into your line. If it is something difficult to breed out, like hip dysplasia, then you should be that much more cautious. You should look at not only the dog's OFA number, but the dog's background. If the dog is a terrific dog with something very strong in its background, then you might consider using a dog that is borderline as far as some breeding characteristic goes. Temperament is of prime importance in the Samoyed. If it doesn't have the correct temperament it is not a Sam. After all, puppies need to be good family members first.

I really object to well-known breeders who offer at public stud animals that have serious hereditary defects, such as cataracts and heart defects – or worse, poor disposition – but who do not inform the stud prospects. I remember calling prominent breeders about their beautiful, specialty-winning male, and they did not inform me that he produced blue eyes. Someone else told me about it. They are ethical in other ways, but I can't go along with that sort of thing.

If you have a dog that is very strong in some area, but it has a fault, you should tell people. Then, they can decide if they want to use your very nice dog. I've had dogs whose hips were rated fair. Icy was only fair. A number of people were interested in using him at stud, and I told them he was only fair. In his first litter of two bitches, both bitches were OFA excellent, but the dam was very strong. Of course, I would only have used dams from very strong stock. The dam was OFA excellent and she came from strong stock and a very good background.

Would you ever go below fair if you had to?

I never have, and I've only used dogs whose hips rated fair a couple of times myself and wasn't really happy with it. I could see how somebody might, but I would not do it. There is too much grief and trouble in doing that. It's too hard to breed it all out. Maybe, if I had an absolutely fantastic, fabulous dog – but I don't think so, not even then. I've had several dogs that were exceptionally nice, whose

hips didn't clear. They were perfectly all right as pets. People asked me why I didn't show them. I didn't have the money to put into that. It was partly monetary, but I would never have used them for breeding purposes, so what would be the point in it? Winning is an ego trip, which is fine if that's what you want. It didn't suit my purposes, however.

Back to breeding: I think linebreeding is the best, but it is hard to bring in enough diversity. When you outcross, it should be to the same type. My most successful outcrosses were to the Williwaw dogs. There was a lot of similarity in type and that went quite well. Some of the same dogs were way back in both pedigrees. I've seen half-brother/half-sister breedings that have been quite successful. When you do that, the closer you breed, the more carefully you have to breed. You can't breed dogs with major problems successfully, or you only successfully set your problems in concrete. Breeders make a mistake of not looking to other animals that might be very helpful to them. Sometimes when people are just starting, they don't see what is wrong with their dog and what is good about someone else's, and that's part of the problem. Their own Fluffy and Muffy look really great to them, and it is easier to breed to their own dogs. It's always nice not to have to spend a big stud fee. Most people are very dedicated and try very hard to do the very best they can to try to get something outstanding, which is the idea of the whole thing.

Is there anyone who has influenced your breeding the most?

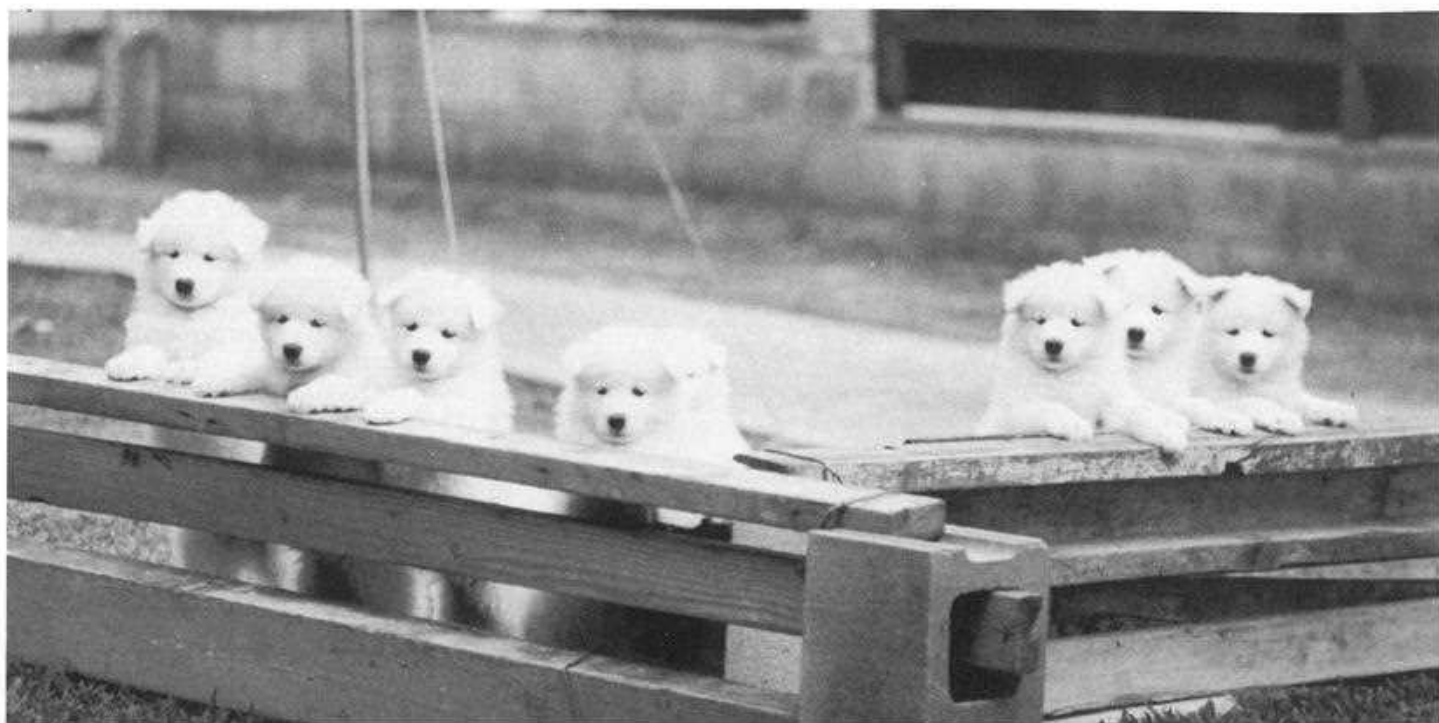
There are quite a few people who have influenced my breeding, but the person who has influenced it the most is probably Frances Fitzpatrick, who bred my Khan. She gave me a lot of good advice. I looked at Khan's dam Tsari as the ideal bitch. My ideal Sam would be Eng/Am Ch. Americ Kobe, who was very much a male dog and very beautiful. I never saw him move. He's pictured in the *Illustrated Standard*. I like to see dogs that move beautifully, too. There have certainly been some gorgeous dogs. I could name a large number of beautiful dogs I have admired over the years. Americ was the grandfather of Janina, my Zoe's grandmother. Billie Tacker gave me much advice in my early years as well, emphasizing temperament and x-raying and the need to keep a Sam's ability to work.

You have two dogs now, but what's the most you've ever had?

The two I have now are just pets. The most I've ever had was seventeen, and that was counting puppies.

How did you come up with your kennel name?

My primary dog was Ch. Sam O'Khans Kubla Khan, so I just took the kennel name from his name. Frances Fitzpatrick named him. They had a kennel in Washington, a small but quality affair.



Sali Ann's pups at seven weeks.

They had Tsari, a beautiful, top-producing bitch, for several years, and her dam was a top producer. I saw her at several specialties, and they also brought her down when we were showing in Oregon. She always showed and moved beautifully. Tsari had a beautiful head and superb structure. Even when she was older, after having had several litters, she looked and moved beautiful. She had four litters of nine puppies each time without complications. She was bred to Noatak once, then she was bred to a nephew, which didn't produce much of anything. Then she was bred to Noatak again - that's the litter which produced Khan and Ch. Kesare's sire and Ch. Ransom's dam. Finally, she was bred to Ch. Nachalnik. There were a couple of champions out of that litter, but they were nowhere as successful as the litters with Noatak. The litter with Noatak was an outcross that incorporated a lot of quality in it. They were all winners and producers. Noatak was a dog that was very big and powerful, with tons of coat, type and head, and Tsari had the agility and femininity. It was a perfect blend. Sometimes an outcross can be a great thing. I think luck has a lot to do with it.

When you name your litters, do you use any sort of scheme?

No. I just named them something I liked.

Did you establish a distinguishable line?

I think so. There are people who still have my bloodlines, but they have been mixed with other bloodlines so they are not



Pup sired by Icy.



Ch. Sam O'Khan's Kubla Khan.

exactly the same as mine. The male I have now, "Tigger," is a lot like my old Khan. He has the personality and he moves nicely. He's not a great show dog, but he looks very much like Khan did, so I have the looks and the personality there. I'm very happy about that. I've linebred on Khan several times, but you can never get the same dog. Tigger's my pet. He has a little different personality. I call him Tigger, like in *Winnie the Pooh*. Khan was more laid-back, but Tigger has a very sweet, even personality and he is very easy to live with.

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

You really need them all. First of all, you need temperament. If you are going to live with an animal, it has to be pleasant. Samoyeds are supposed to be good-natured. If a dog is going to bite you, give you trouble, or be difficult with the neighbors and

bite kids, it is absolutely not a Samoyed. Then comes soundness, and if the dog is sound, it should be typey. If everything is built right, it should look right. When I was doing sweepstakes in San Diego, there was one puppy out of coat, but it moved beautifully. I didn't give it Best in Sweepstakes, but I gave it the next best thing. There was another bitch that moved beautifully and she also had a beautiful coat and type so she got Best in Sweepstakes; they both became champions. I really love to see a dog that moves nicely. A Samoyed is a working dog, and if its structure doesn't permit it to fulfill its function, that isn't what we are looking for. It's not supposed to be a German Shepherd, a Siberian or an Alaskan Malamute, but it should be an animal that could work all day, and it should move freely. It should not be cow- or sickle-hocked. Sometimes an animal may be a

little close in its rear, but still have a lot of strength in its rear. I look for animals that have strength and that look like they could move freely and work all day, as well as looking like a Samoyed.

Did you have a long-range goal in breeding dogs?

I believe I pretty well reached it and established a type. A number of my dogs have gone to different kennels and they have used them in their own way. I still see a lot of my Khan in some people's dogs, a certain amount of him here and there. Since there is just me, and my daughter does not want to keep breeding, that's sort of the end of it. We just appreciate other people's breeding now. I get to travel around and look at all the dogs and see who the relatives are. It's fun.

Why do some dogs look good standing and posing, but not so good when they move?

It's probably because of a good handler. (laughter) It may be a dog that is not as well angulated. It's much easier to get a dog with a straight shoulder and stifle to stand straight sometimes than one that is more angulated. A younger animal may not have developed its muscling. A younger animal with long legs will be all over the place. It doesn't, and shouldn't, tighten up until later. You don't want a young puppy that is large and growing fast to move very tightly, or it possibly won't be right later on. There are a lot of factors that enter into movement. Very often, people opt for the dogs that don't have full 45-degree angulation because it is much easier to get such an animal to move cleanly than one that is nicely angulated. Scissoring of a longer coat by a talented handler or owner can accomplish wonders. I've seen dogs that won nothing until taken in hand by a master scissors artist, and then went on to Best in Show.

How should a dog move in the front?

I go by the standard. I really like to see a good front on an animal. It is more important than the rear, because if they have a good front, they can get by and almost pull the whole rear around. You may even see injured dogs, where the rear is not doing very well, but if the front is good, they still get around. The front is more important to their locomotion than the rear. There are more things that can go wrong with the front and it is harder to get a good front than a good rear, but both are important. A dysplastic rear can throw a greater load on the front and cause it to fail.

How should a dog move from the side?

I like to see them moving freely. Their front paws should come down in front of the nose. They will have more reach according to how much angulation there is. Gait will be very short and choppy if the angulation of the shoulders is straight. If on a horse, the rider would be jolting along. The movement will be much freer and the

dog won't tire as easily if it has the required 45-degree angulation and if it is set on properly, the dog should move without making any extraneous motions.

Most people agree that Ch. Iceway's Ice Cube had one of the best side gaits. I like to see dogs move freely and suspend. I've seen dogs that almost kicked themselves in the back of the head because they have straighter stifles. You don't want Sams moving like the saddle-bred horse, picking their feet way up. It has to be smooth and straight out, as in a Morgan horse, with no wasted motion or energy. This animal was designed to work all day tirelessly.

Some people get so angry with their dogs when they do something wrong in the ring or if they don't win. I always tell my puppy buyers, "When it isn't fun anymore, then take your dog home and let it be a pet." If it isn't fun anymore, what is the point of doing it?

Here is a picture of Ch. Khan's Conquistador Rio, nick-named "Pogo." He could never pass a grooming table that he wouldn't hop up on, even if there was another dog on it. (laughter) He was a very agile dog. Here is Khan's grandfather, Can. Ch. Polar Stars Nika Frost. He was rather shorter of leg and lighter of bone than many you see nowadays, but he was really fuzzy.

How do you like the rear to move when going away from you?

According to the standard, it should track cleanly, with no bumper rears. It shouldn't be wide, and it should single-track as the dog gains speed. I've always bred to the standard. I've tried not to have them too big or too little. It's important he moves with strength, showing smooth follow-through without extraneous, wasted motion.

What are you looking for in a head?

It should be an attractive head. That's important in Sammies, but I would never put up a dog with a gorgeous head if the rest of the dog was terrible. I appreciate a good head. That is the cutest and most attractive part. They should have expression. Too many of our Sams are losing the dark eyes, the dark points, and proper eye set. These are important things in the Sam. The eyes should be almond-shaped with a slight slant. Eyes that are rounder or pop-eyed spoil the look. If the flews are droopy, that can spoil the expression, too. As a dog like that gets older, he will be coarser looking and he won't age as gracefully. You want an intelligent expression. Soundness is of first importance, but a head lends so much to type and balances it out. The skull should be wedge-shaped and slightly crowned. Sometimes Sams will not have really good underjaw, but it's nice if they do. Khan had a very good head. Everyone admired it.



Star the Collie and Vaschka in the backyard.

How serious are missing teeth?

They are supposed to have their teeth, but they don't call you to task about it as they do in the Dobermans. They make a big deal about it in the Dobermans. I don't think bites are much of a problem in Sams. You seldom hear of people having trouble with bites; I never did. You don't have to get in there and count every tooth. You look at the bite, front and side. The bite should be a scissors bite. The standard says they should have strong, well-set teeth, snugly overlapping with a scissors bite. Undershot or overshot should be penalized.

How important is the eye color?

Dark eyes are preferred. It's important because it lends so much character. You might have a dog that was absolutely fantastic in every way except for its eye color, and if the other dogs in the ring do not compare with him, the eye color is not the first item to be considered. It is not even penalized unless the eyes are blue - then they're disqualified. But dark eyes are definitely preferred. It makes such a difference in the dog's face. Blue eyes are the only disqualifying eye color. The eyes should be placed well apart and be deep-set and almond-shaped. The lower lids should slant toward an imaginary point approximately at the base of the ears. Dark eye rims are preferred. The round or protruding eyes are penalized.

If you had to rate the whole dog on a point scale from 1 to 100, how many of those points would you assign to the head?

I will beg off on that. The whole dog is important. I look at the whole dog as it is put together. You can't say a dog adds up

to a great tail, a great head and a great coat, and, therefore, it wins. The whole dog should be considered. Is he sound? Can he move? Is he typey? If you have enough of those dogs, then you can choose which dog is showy after that. I look and then say, "Which one or ones would I like to have in my kennel?"

How important is pigment?

The nose can change on some Sams. It is supposed to be black, but sometimes one will have a liver-colored nose. It can fade with the weather. I would say that is a minor point, although it is nice if the nose is black. As far as eye rims are concerned, a very small break would not be too bad, but it is, of course, preferable to have the entire eye rim black. Sometimes a small break on a puppy will fill in later. With my very first litter, I sold one to a friend at seven weeks. The pup had a tiny eye rim pigment break, but it had filled in by the time the owner came to pick her up. Samoyed's eye and lip rims will fill in up until about a year or so.

Would you breed to a dog that had any missing pigment?

Other points are much more important. If you have a line with dark pigment that is fairly dominant, and if you have never had a problem with missing pigment, it would probably be okay. I believe it is a simple recessive, and I don't think it would be a problem. As in all breeding, it should depend on the prospective sire and dam, plus their close ancestors. You do not breed fault to like fault.

How far down should the Samoyed's chest go?

To the elbow. Sams should have a nice, deep, heart-shaped chest so that there



Ch. Tara is helping Sali clean her eleven-day-old puppies.

is sufficient breathing room. If the chest isn't shaped correctly the dog won't move correctly. It should not be a round chest, but a heart-shaped chest that goes below the elbow. That's what I look for. Dogs that are round don't look as good or move well. They roll along like a little barrel.

Has it been your experience that coat is very important to winning in the ring?

I think it is more important when you get to the Group. When we first finished Khan, we showed him up to Breed quite often, and he wasn't in coat at all, but he had a good body. To get out of Breed and win in the Group, you usually have to have a Sam that has it all together, as a rule, and it is hard to do that without good coat. Some judges think coat is more important than other judges. The standard says the quality of the coat is the most important thing. We found the mixture of the Silver Moon, Williwaw and Whiteway were excellent coats. Later on, we mixed it with the Iceway coat and produced some very beautiful coats. Of course, there are other lines with very nice coats. I liked the texture of some of the coats we got. I don't like coats that you have to spend a lot of time on. A good bath is all it should really need, if you breed a good coat. Leave the powders and sprays at home.

Ch. Kola's Midsummer Night's Dream had a wonderful coat. He was very hard to wet down. When we'd take him to the groomers, they would die because it was very hard to wet him and also to dry him. His coat was so thick and very weather-proof. It stood straight out. After he was groomed, his coat would stay nice for the whole circuit. There was none of this back-

combing stuff or spray can business with him. I like a dog that can be wiped down with a damp towel and combed out. I don't like to put a lot of junk on a dog's coat. It dulls and ruins the coat when you do that. It is better to breed a good coat in the beginning than to try to make a good coat out of a lot of hairspray.

What colors are recognized in Sams?

There are white, biscuit and cream. The biscuit, or color, helps to keep the black points. "Golly," Ch. Kola's Midsummer Night's Dream had biscuit in his coat and two visiting English judges loved him. He won both days. The little "colored dog" is what they called him. His points were very black and he had a lot of black on his body. Many people make the mistake of not having or using biscuit dogs. They're valuable in retaining pigment and coat texture. Cream is sometimes mistaken for being dirty and it is not so easy to win with. There was a kennel that had cream dogs once in a while, and people thought they were dirty, but they weren't. Golly's coat was very white with biscuit in it. He and his puppies had beautiful coats that required very little grooming, which was a big plus. Sometimes the biscuit intensifies in that type of dog as it gets older. These coats are more likely to be properly water-resistant, as required by the standard. Usually, a biscuit dog will help with pigment problems.

What is an ideal front?

Toes are supposed to point straight ahead with a 45-degree layback in shoulder with a heart-shaped chest - just what the standard calls for. It should be free-moving with no wasted motion.

What is an ideal croup drop-off?

The croup has to be at an angle to match the shoulder for balanced movement and power. Of course, some dogs don't work and that's usually the problem. If the croup is too steep or too shallow, then the tail won't be set on right. A good clue that the croup isn't right is when you see a tail that won't go up or won't come over properly, or is flagging. Very often, a Sammy that has a tail that is up high, the rear will be straighter and it won't have good driving thrust. So, the tail won't be set right, but the main thing is you won't get the drive, the power and the follow-through. It has to all match or it will be apt to interfere. Sometimes you will see dogs with really nice fronts, but their rears don't quite match, and that's too bad. Sometimes exercise or sled work will develop the rear and give better movement.

Should the topline be level?

Oh, yes, it should be level, and not too long or it may get saggy and weak. When Khan was about ten, I had him at the beauty parlor and a long-time judge commented how nice his back was, especially at his age. A good topline is neither too long nor too short. You don't want it too short, because the dog will be too close-coupled and its legs will interfere with each other. The dog won't have an efficient drive train. Sams should be off square, with bitches often a bit longer, but not weak in back.

Would you say, then, that the topline is more for function than for beauty?

Soundness and beauty go together. If they are built right, they will look good, but sometimes they look nice even if they are not built right! (laughter) That's because they are cute and fluffy, so they can get away with it, and the structure is hidden.

What is the ideal height of a dog and a bitch?

I would like to stay within the standard and not get too big or too little. I've had large dogs and smaller dogs. I don't like to see males get too small. Males should never be mistaken for bitches, or vice versa. The males should always look masculine and be of good size. The dogs should have decent-sized legs in order to move well. First of all, a Sam should be a working dog. Everyone should try out their dogs working - in snow, if possible. We did a little bit with sledding. We did just enough to see which dogs would work and which dogs wouldn't work, and how well they would work. When checking how the dogs work, you will find the ones that are straighter won't last very long. They want to ride rather quickly. However, part of a dog's ability to work is its attitude. I had a little short-legged dog that would double-time it in order to keep up with the other dogs, but if she were a real working dog, it would be hard on her, because she would be putting forth twice the effort of everyone else. You can also check and see if a coat is waterproof. It may look waterproof, but I've

seen a surprise or two. Frances Fitzpatrick always wet her puppies down before choosing, in order to determine structure and coat.

What is the ideal tail length and set?

The tail is supposed to come over the back nicely and down. It should be long enough to come down to the hock when it is straightened out. If you went around measuring them, you would find a lot of tails are not quite that long. As long as you have enough tail for it to come over and lie nicely, that's not one of the major things. There are a lot more important things the breed needs to worry about than the length of the tail. Think of the purpose: Could the tail come over and protect their nose and breathing when curled up in the snow?

What is the ideal ear and earset?

The ears should be erect with strong ear leather, neither too close together nor too far apart. The dog's ears should look alert. We aren't seeing so much of it now, but for a long time there were a lot of ears that probably didn't have good ear leather. They had floppy ears. I don't like to see puppies whose ears are not up by thirteen weeks. If the ears are not up by thirteen weeks, you should give them a little help. If the ears are not up by sixteen weeks, I would worry about that. Again, that is not the most important thing. The traveling and running gear, the soundness, the basic body of the dog is more important than its ears.

How do you help floppy ears?

You shave the back of the ear, prop them up with cotton and wrap tape around them, but you should only leave them up a couple of days and then take the tape off. Sometimes you can take a little tube and wrap it around with bandages or loose tape and leave it for a day or two, which will help get the ears up. If it is more of a problem than that, I would take the dog to someone who does Doberman ears, so that the ears will be done correctly. If you leave the ears taped too long, or prop them the wrong way, they will be set the wrong way. If you are not sure, take them to someone who can do them properly. There was one kennel in the Northwest years ago where they had Great Dane racks they used to put on the dogs' heads. They had GIANT ears. The ears were simply huge, but I haven't seen ears like that in a long time, so I guess things are improving.

How about the ideal foot?

It should be a hare foot, which enables the dog to walk on snow. It's not a round cat foot, and it certainly shouldn't be thin or splayed out. You see dogs now and again with their feet splayed. Part of the foot problem can be helped if they are on a correct surface. Deep gravel will help pastern or foot problems. There should be just a slight bend in the pastern and the feet should be tight. It is like a rabbit's foot that



Ch. Sam O'Khans Kubla Khan.

will travel well on the snow.

Should a dog with bad feet be used?

All dogs have faults. It all depends on the dogs involved and their ancestors and the overall quality of the dog. You could use a dog with bad feet if the rest of the dog was terrific. If you were going to breed that dog, however, it's preferable that the parents should have very good feet, and so should other dogs in its background. You should breed in with strength and in future generations continue breeding in with strength. People don't remember they have recessives and they think the problem is solved with one breeding and one generation. Sometimes they don't tell the puppy people what to breed to in order to maintain what they have gained, and some puppy people won't listen, either.

What is the ideal Samoyed temperament?

Temperament is probably more impor-

tant than anything else. A dog can have everything else, but if he doesn't have good temperament, it's a definite problem. Dogs lacking show quality can still make good pets if they have good temperament. Show temperament is another thing. Most show dogs are great pets. A really terrific show dog needs to enjoy showing, but you must be careful to not burn the dog out when he is young. Some lines were really great that way, like Frost River and Williwaw. Some of those dogs were terrific, and we used to say they were born baiting, and they would show until the cows came home. (laughter) They would get up on their tippy toes, turn on and really ask for it.

Icy had a lovely disposition. He was lovely to live with in the house. He was a sweet dog that got along with the other dogs. His show temperament was good enough to finish with BOB over top specials



Diamond Jim.

and a Group 1, but he was easily bored with the whole thing. When the time came to show him as a special, sometimes he would show and sometimes he wouldn't. I don't believe a lot in show circuits. We sent him out on one, but he wasn't much for show circuits. He'd get the Breed, but to win consistently in the Group, you really need a dog that loves to show. So we retired him.

The Benson's Torch, a son of a Khan grandson, did very well and got Specialty, Group and Best of Show wins. He would show and show and just loved it and didn't get bored with it. You need a dog like that. I see a couple of dogs in the Sammy ring that are always happy and love to do it. To make the Group ring, you need a dog that is not only a good house pet, but that loves to show, as well as being a good physical specimen.

What are the most serious faults in the breed

today?

Straight shoulders. I was watching the last specialty, but there was a lack of really good fronts. It's a hard problem to solve, because there is more than one factor involved. Other problems are unattractive heads, improper coats and good angulation.

Is the Samoyed standard a good one?

Yes, and it should stay the same as it is now. It's one of the better standards and I would like to see it left just as it is. It's pretty expressive. The emphasis should be on Sams as working dogs, dogs able to do a day's work, not just fluff balls.

Should there be any disqualification's?

Yes. Blue eyes are a disqualification. There were people who thought they were getting a good buy from a pet shop, and they got a dog with blue eyes. The dog had a terrible temperament, hip dysplasia, blue eyes, it couldn't go out in the daylight - you name it! I believe the blue-eyed Sams often

have problems with their dispositions. They can't go out into the sunlight. That disqualification is in the standard for a reason. Blue eyes are sensitive.

Should champions be speialed?

It's nice if you can afford it. I only speialed mine locally and at the specialties. You might want to show off your special if he is in good condition and looking very good. You don't want to show them unless they are at their best. When people present famous older dogs at specialties, it should be remembered that your appearance in your prime was superior to your looks as you age.

Does making the Top Ten or Twenty mean anything?

Yes, I think it means something. It doesn't mean they are the only great dogs in the nation, but it means they have a certain amount of quality. A dog that is in the Top Ten has defeated a lot of dogs, has finished his championship, and he has to have a certain amount of quality. Statistics can be even more revealing. If they have been shown very heavily and have one Best in Show, then you say, "That's nice." It means a lot more if a dog has been shown fewer times and has a Best in Show. It means more if you look at it that way. The same thing is true numerically with a dog used as a stud dog. If you have a dog that has sired a hundred litters and has ten champions, it's different from the dog that has sired three litters and has ten champions. How many chances has the dog had to accomplish whatever it has accomplished?

Would popularization help or harm the breed?

It doesn't help it. It seems to me that the Sams are not nearly as sound as when I first started in the breed. We didn't have all the problems then that we now have with genetic diseases. We hadn't even heard of them, and certainly didn't encounter these things the way we do now. We had a certain amount of hip dysplasia, but not to the degree we have it today. Popularization goes along with people who breed who are either not informed or who don't care about the breed. They are not careful enough, or they just want a winner. The fact that some dogs have been big winners and big champion producers does not mean they have always been as genetically clean as we desire, and that's the problem. When I started, HD ran about five percent. Now I understand it can occur in up to 35 percent in some lines. Study backgrounds. Breed mainly goods and excellent and hope for luck.

Is judging fair?

On the whole, yes. People are people anywhere, but most of the judges I've encountered do their very best to give a fair rendering. People should look at their dogs in an analytical light and ask themselves

when they lose, "Was my dog looking his best today? Was he showing his best today? Was he gaiting so the judge could see he was terrific?" I've seen dogs go into the ring and that weren't exercised beforehand. Their handlers brought them right into the ring and the dogs were very tight and did not move well. This can make a difference in how the judge evaluates the dog that day. Sometimes a dog will look better than at other times. It depends on what the judge sees. If you don't present your dog well and gait him well, how is one to know? Some judges may like only a certain type, but all judges are supposed to be judging according to the standard, and that's open to interpretation. If you present your dog a couple of times in good condition and he is overlooked, it's your option not to show under that judge. The most difficult thing is when you are judging in a not-so-hot group of dogs. That makes it a difficult decision for any judge.

Is there anything that can be done to improve judging?

I believe AKC is doing its best at the moment. I can't believe all the tests they are having and the seminars. Ask me that question later; I'm just beginning. I never felt I should judge while I was actively breeding and showing. You leave yourself open to misinterpretation if you do that. It's better if you are not selling a lot of puppies or having stud service at the same time you are judging. That's just my personal feeling. Many people do it and it's not really wrong.

When you were showing, did you prefer to show under an all breed judge or a breeder-judge?

The ones I liked best were handler-judges. I thought the old-time handlers did a very workmanlike job. They were my favorites.

Is poor judging more a result of politics or the fact that most judges don't know the breed?

It may be lack of knowledge; I don't know. I'm not in the judges' heads, and I've never made it a habit of going up and asking why they did such and such a thing. I always felt that if you went under a judge two or three times and that judge still did not like your dog, don't enter that dog under that judge again. If you see that judge putting up a different type and you have that type, then you might show that dog. Occasionally, you will see a judge who doesn't have any consistency and you can't figure out what that judge is doing. That's just the way it is sometimes. You don't have to enter under that judge. A good dog, however, will usually do well over a period of time under a number of judges. At times, several outstanding dogs may be competing at the same time. So judging will depend on finer points of personal preference.

Does advertising influence judges?

I've never gotten into the big time with



Burans Farrah Khan Delight, a Khan granddaughter.

heavy advertising, but it probably doesn't hurt, especially with big specialties. It depends on the judges, though. Any judge that sees a fantastic dog will usually pick up on it. It would be better to ask that question of someone who campaigned heavily, because I've never been into that.

Have you ever handled for other people as a favor or professionally?

Seldom. I haven't been that great at it. I've helped out puppy people, friends, or if I was going to a specialty, I might take somebody's dog, especially when I was younger.

Would you prefer to do it yourself or use a

handler?

If I were younger and thinner, I would prefer to handle my dog myself. You know your own dog and you can always do better by your dog if you work at handling. The people who are really good breeder-owner-handlers do a very good job with their dogs. The dog is tuned in to its owner and knows him or her best. But, there are also dogs that won't work for certain people and will work better with a handler. If you can't run as fast as your dog can, or can't present your dog the right way, maybe you should have a handler. Even when I used a han-

bler, I would train my dog and wait until it had two, three or five points before I turned it over to a handler to polish it off. Sometimes it would go a little faster that way. There is no point in giving a dog to a handler completely untrained, although at times I did this. Do as I say, not as I do! That's a waste of money; however, I did it on occasion as I got older and wasn't as agile.

Thanks to Brian Philips and some of those dear people who would partly train my dogs. When I was younger and could run around better, I preferred to do it myself. It's more fun. You can make an ego trip out of it. (laughter)

To be continued ...

Think About It

Simple Good Manners

Jeanne Nonhof
Waldo, Wisconsin

Although I may be old fashioned, it seems to that good manners make life so much easier for a person and everyone surrounding that person. This applies to all of life, but I will limit myself to some of the things which involve the dog world.

Thank you notes. Remember what your mother taught you? Well, it still holds true today and in the dog world. If you win a trophy, send the donor a thank you note. It doesn't have to be long or involved, and will only cost you the price of a first class stamp, a piece of paper and an envelope. Even a postcard would be an acknowledgment of their contribution to your nice day. Send that note before you put the trophy on the shelf. The catalog lists the trophies and their donors. If you cannot come up with an address, consult the trophy chairman, who will be listed in the front of the catalog or contact the club secretary for information. The club will appreciate your efforts to thank the donor.

If you have managed to verbally thank the trophy donor, it is not necessary to send that thank you note, but even then, it wouldn't hurt. You will feel good for having sent it and the recipient will feel appreciated.

One of my friend's pet peeves is people who come up to him at a doggy event and start going over his dog without first asking permission. There could be many reasons why this permission might not be granted. The dog may have had a bad experience somewhere and may need reassurance from his owner while you do your own personal hands-on. A bitch may be in season and then you can be warned. It could be that the animal has a temperament problem. It is always wise to request permission before you touch someone else's dog. If you ask, the guy at the other end of the leash may set the dog up for you and even point up the good and bad points of the dog.

Basic good manners are simply treating others as you would want to be treated. If you are sitting comfortably at ringside with your dog, observing the judging, and one of the exhibits is so interested in your bitch, whether she is in season or not, that he will not gait properly past her, what do you think you should do? Put yourself in the other guy's shoes and think about it. Perhaps it would be helpful to remove your bitch from ringside. Or think about it this way: If you do not make some kind of move to remedy the situation, some could think you are pulling one of those infamous dirty tricks to thwart the competition.

When you're in the ring, do not crowd other exhibitors and their dogs. Leave yourself plenty of space for your dog to make that picture you want the judge to see. When gaiting, again, space out. Your dog will look better and be in better control. More importantly, the judge will get a good look at your dog's movement instead of the quick glance he would get if you are right on the preceding dog's behind. Avoid running up on other exhibits. Running up is one of the main complaints I hear from other judges, and makes some of them angry. It is not a good move to ruffle a judge's feathers if you hope to win. They're trying to do a conscientious job and want to see each dog at its best.

There are times, particularly at specialties, when the breeder's corner, which is the corner at the end of the diagonal, is jammed with people madly pushing the record buttons on their video cameras. It is considerate to try to avoid blocking their filming efforts. However, you have paid your entry fee to show your dog. If being polite in this case interferes with exhibiting your dog to best advantage, you have to decide where your priorities are.

I know that sometimes in the pressures of competition we are all terribly rushed, but it doesn't take much time to be polite. Think about it. •

