

THE SAMOYED QUARTERLY

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Ch. Hoof 'N Paw's A Rose Is A Rose

Samoyed People

The Samoyed Quarterly
Talks with
Dean Stanfield
PALADIN
New Orleans, Louisiana

This interview was conducted at the home of Dean Stanfield in August of 1995 by Jerrilynn Lilyblade.

How long have you been in dogs?
With Samoyeds, since 1974. Before that we had a Spitz that we got in 1965.

What made you choose Samoyeds?
We'd had the Spitz for about eleven years. The people we got her from had gotten her from England. She was called a Volpino and had originated from Greece from a litter of circus dogs. We had previously been to the SPCA to get a dog. They didn't exactly say we weren't fit parents, but they did say we were not qualified because we lived in an upstairs apartment, we had no children to play with the dog and we both worked. Also, the yard was not fenced in, so they would not let us have a dog. We were quite upset and didn't know how to go about getting a dog.

Bill was teaching at the university at that time and we were socializing with a professor one night. He said it was too bad his neighbors were having their dog put down. It was a Spitz. The people were being transferred to Alaska and could not take their dog. They didn't want it over there with those wild arctic dogs, so they had taken it to the SPCA to have it put down. The SPCA had said they had to put the dog into a home with children, so the people did not leave it with the SPCA as the dog was not used to being around children. So they found a private vet to put the dog down. They were so fond of the dog they felt it was better off being put down than being with the wrong family. We were contacted and they said they wanted to interview us. They liked us, and the dog just jumped into the car when we got ready to go, as if she knew she was supposed to go with us. She was four years old at the time and never seemed to grieve after her former owners. Like a child, she traveled all over

the United States with us that year.

I was so close to her that when she started getting older, Bill said, "She is not going to last much longer. You'd better get another dog." I didn't know how I would get another one like her. Bill said, "My father used to have a Samoyed. They look very much like the Spitz. Their tails

years old, I saw an ad in the paper for a dog show. I had been to a few cat shows, but never to a dog show. I said, "Let's go to the dog show and pick her out a champion boyfriend." We thought she was so pretty we would just have to breed her. We wanted puppies just like her. We went to the New Orleans dog show. We were lucky because

where I'd gotten the dog and if it had been X-rayed. Of course, it hadn't. She told me to take her to the vet to have her hips X-rayed and then to call her so I could bring Natasha down for her to see. I took her to the vet and she had hip dysplasia. I cried all the way home. We were very upset, because we thought we had the perfect dog, even though we'd bought her as a pet. We didn't think anything should be wrong with her. We knew nothing about all the problems dogs had. I called Kathryn Tagliaferri and told her I was very sorry I couldn't bring my bitch for her to see because she had hip dysplasia. I was very fortunate that she set me off on the right foot at the very beginning.

After a while, we decided we wanted to get a good show dog that didn't have hip dysplasia. We didn't know how to go about doing that. We didn't know about getting into a kennel club or how to find out about dogs. We did a lot of calling. Finally, we called Bill's father who told us to buy *Dog World*, to look in the back and that would give us some breeders' names. We did, and Bill picked one fairly close in the South, and I picked one in California, because I liked the way her ad read. She was very particular as to who would buy her dogs. I was sort of set on getting one from this lady, and I am very glad we did. She turned out to be a member of the SCA, while the other breeder wasn't. We got Kalmari's Adrian of Nola, our first show dog, from Judy Kalmbrum. We called the dog Adrian. Bill's father's dog from past years was named Adrian, so that's why we named him that. That was the way we got into dogs, one step at a time.

Why did you decide to show?

I think it had to do with when we found out Stashie had hip dysplasia, and we had to turn down a breeding because she wasn't good enough. I decided I wanted one that was good enough. I never bred Adrian. I let him out for stud once. I worried so much about the puppies. I kept them for a while for the man who owned the bitch. Then he sold a



Dean holding Scarlett, with Saucie, her mom, facing camera, Nelli in foreground and Stashie and Garde in background.

curl up over their backs." I really wasn't sure I wanted another dog right then, but one day I was looking in the paper and saw an ad for a Samoyed. I told Bill about it when he came home and he said, "Let's call them up." We did. They didn't live too far from us, and we went to look at the puppies. I was all set to get a male and the lady kept bringing a female out. She was trying to push the females. I guess she had more of them. She sort of chose Natasha for us, but they were all so cute, it wouldn't have mattered which one she brought out. We would have probably taken it.

When she was about two

we sat by Mickey Tagliaferri and his wife was a judge. She was ring stewarding for judge Greathouse that day. I was exclaiming over all the dogs in the ring. Mickey said, "Oh, you really like them, do you?" I said, "Yes. We have one at home. She's just beautiful and I'm looking for a champion to breed her to." He said, "We've got one at home." I said, "Oh, you do?" He started telling us all about his champion, an older dog. He said, "That's my wife in the ring. When she gets through, you can talk to her about it."

When I talked with her after the show, she wanted to know

bitch to people I didn't think should have dogs. They were what I would call backyard breeders. I was very upset with the man, and I never let Adrian out for stud again. It upset me too much.

After we got Adrian, we took him to a match in Baton Rouge. That was the second show I ever attended. Two breeders helped me outside the ring, so I could go into the ring to handle Adrian. I certainly didn't do very well handling him that day, and I didn't win anything. The match was at LSU in an agricultural barn, not a very good facility to show a puppy in. It turned extremely cold that day and I hadn't worn a coat. I was so glad to have a warm puppy to hold in my arms to keep me warm. It was like having a blanket.

I showed him in matches. I ruined him for show because I didn't know how to handle him. He knew he owned me. He let me know right away that he was in control. He didn't really like to show. Every time I would take him around the ring, he would try to drag me out when we got near the entrance. One day, a judge told me I would have a wonderful dog once I had him trained. I never got him trained. Bill would later win with him, or a handler, but he never would let me handle him. I kept going second with him at so many shows. He really wasn't an inferior dog. It was strictly because he hated to show so much. He would not bait for me. He would cross his legs or do anything to aggravate me, it seemed, in the ring.

We went to Texas, where the Tagliaferris had a puppy they were showing. We took Adrian and I believe we had Nelli Kim at that time, our bitch. Kathryn and I were grooming our dogs and she said, "Bill is going to take Adrian in today." It was a German Shepherd judge and Adrian was a good mover when he would move for you, but she knew he wouldn't move for me. I said, "He won't do it." She said, "Oh, yes, he will. Leave it to me." She built up Bill's ego in some way. She said, "You can win with that dog. You take him in and show him." The major was broken by one dog that was absent, but Bill went Winners that day, the first time Bill had ever stepped into a ring. We were sold after that on showing the dogs, but I very seldom



Snocryst Nelli Kim, September 1977.

showed one after that. (laughter) I did the grooming and Bill did the showing, or else we used a handler. Bill finished Saucie by himself, and some of our other dogs got majors with Bill handling. We still use handlers occasionally.

Which dog is the best that you have ever owned?

They all had their good points and their bad points, but probably Saucie was the best show dog overall. She was not a good brood bitch, but she made a beautiful picture. She had beauti-

ful pigment and beautiful movement. She was a good show bitch until she was attacked by a Rotweiler. It took us a while to get her back to it again before we finally finished her.

What happened?

I had taken her and Nelli to a

show in Pensacola by myself. I was going to show one of them and have Houston Clark's wife handle the other, while I handled

Saucie. I was standing by the entrance and the Rottweiler ring was right next to our Sammy ring, with the entrances side by

side. This man with the Rottweiler was sitting by his entrance while I was getting ready to go in, holding both dogs and waiting for

Mrs. Clark to come and pick one up. He let his dog go on a long lead in front of him and around him and he attacked my dogs from the rear. It didn't bother Nelli, but Saucie was shaking and scared to death after that. The dog didn't really hurt them, other than scare them. The man accused my dogs of attacking his Rottweiler. He was a very ugly man. All the Sammy people who were standing around knew better and told him so, but he was very obnoxious about it. He had a very vicious acting dog.

The amazing thing is Mrs. Clark took Saucie in the ring and she went Best of Opposite that day, but there was no major because it had been broken. Saucie showed well for her, even though it was raining. After that, when I tried to show her, she trembled and wouldn't put her tail up. I kept trying to show her to get her used to the other dogs. I wasn't trying to win with her so much as play with her and get her used to it again. Bill showed her, and she eventually got used to it again, but she never was as good a show dog as she was before, as far as animation and baiting.

Nelli and Mackie loved to show the most of any of our dogs. Mackie still loves to go to shows. The last time he showed was when a friend showed him for Veterans Dog in 1991. He is almost thirteen now, so he is not shown anymore.

If you don't do any breeding yourself, where have you found your dogs?

The first one was just a local pet. Then we got Adrian from Judy Kalmbrum of Kalmarli Kennels. We got Nelli from Donna Yocum. She wasn't actually the breeder, but it was out of her dogs and the Snocryst Kennel. Then we got Saucie from Kalmarli Kennel. We had an Elkhound we got from Donna Yocum of Tsiulikagta Kennels.

Do you just have the two dogs now?

Yes.

Will you be getting anymore?

I don't know. I have looked at the dogs at the specialty, but I haven't come up with a breeder who seems to be breeding consistently each year. What I might like one year, a couple of years later, I don't like what they have. I don't really know who I would get one from if I got another one, so I don't really know at this point. I may get a small dog and



Kalmarli's Adrian of Nola.



Karava's Makeesa Mekel, "Mackie."

one Sam, and not have two big dogs, because it is so hard to keep them in the South. I have to keep them inside because of the heat. I have a dog room, but I prefer living with my dogs. Because of the fleas here, I usually bathe them every two weeks, especially in the summer. Some people don't seem to have a problem with fleas, but we have so many cats that roam our yard that it is hard to keep the fleas down.

Which dog has been your biggest winner?

Saucie never won the Breed, but she went Best Puppy in her first match. She went Best of Opposite, and she won one of her majors at one of the Houston shows that had a very large entry. Mackie has been our biggest winner. He's gone Breed, and that was while we were getting his majors. We didn't special him. In fact, we didn't special any of our Sams.

Can Samoyed pedigrees be trusted for accuracy?



Mackie receiving his Good Citizenship award.



Saucie. Above left, as a puppy, shown with Lisa Lisa Kalmbrum.

I wouldn't think a breeder would lie about a pedigree. When I first got into dogs, I followed the pedigrees very closely. When I see a dog advertised, I love to look and see what he is out of. You might see a picture of a beautiful dog advertised, but sometimes you have no idea who the sire and dam are. When I first started in Samoyeds, you could look at certain dogs and know what lines they were from. Now they are crossing them all so much, I don't know what they are trying to do. Maybe I have been out of it too much lately to know. But I would hope that breeders do not fudge on pedigrees.

Why did you name your kennel Paladin?

Paladin means white knight, so it seemed appropriate. Later, I found out there is a registered kennel in Canada called Paladin.

How about the dog's names?

When you get a dog from a breeder, they want their name on the front. Nelli was already named. Ms. Yocum named her

after the Russian Olympic star who won about the time Nelli was born. Adrian was named after Bill's father's dog. That was the only Samoyed Bill could remember. We spent a lot of time trying to name Saucie. We didn't have anything to go on. We named her Kalmarli's Sauce Piquante, because that was a Louisiana hot sauce that everybody seemed to enjoy, and we thought she was quite a spicy little bitch. Our Elkhound was already named when we got him. His name is Tsiulikagta's Avantgarde. I don't know how Donna Yocum came up with that. We always called him Garde. Scarlett, the one we bred, was named by Iris Clough and Johnny Rogers. We sent her to them. They were going to use her, but her rear wasn't all that good, so I brought her back to keep her here. We named our first bitch Queen Natasha after a Russian novel, a Tolstoy novel, I believe. Naming a dog has a lot to do with the dog's personality.

How would you rate type, temper-

ament and soundness in order of importance?

They would be equal. I wouldn't want any of them to be less than what they should be.

Will you please describe your interpretation of the perfect Samoyed?

I haven't seen a perfect one yet. I would like to take parts of different dogs and put them together into one dog. Every dog always has some little something that you don't like. I would look at the overall dog and its movement. I like a nice long neck, a squared-off dog with a good front and rear. Eyes are important to expression. I like the dark eyes. I don't like light colored eyes at all. Saucie had dark eyes with dark rims and her nose never changed in the winter, like my other dogs did, who all got lighter noses in the winter as they aged. She never did. She always had a very black nose. A judge in Houston once took out her handkerchief and started wiping her nose, thinking I had dyed it in some way.

What causes winter nose?

Some people think it is the weather, along with less light during the winter. I think it must be hereditary, because Saucie's nose color never changed, but the rest of our dogs' noses did.

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

When a dog is standing and posing, you don't always see structural faults, but when they move, they can't hide their faults and they fall apart.

Is advertising misleading, then?

Sometimes it is. Some dogs are just more photogenic than others.

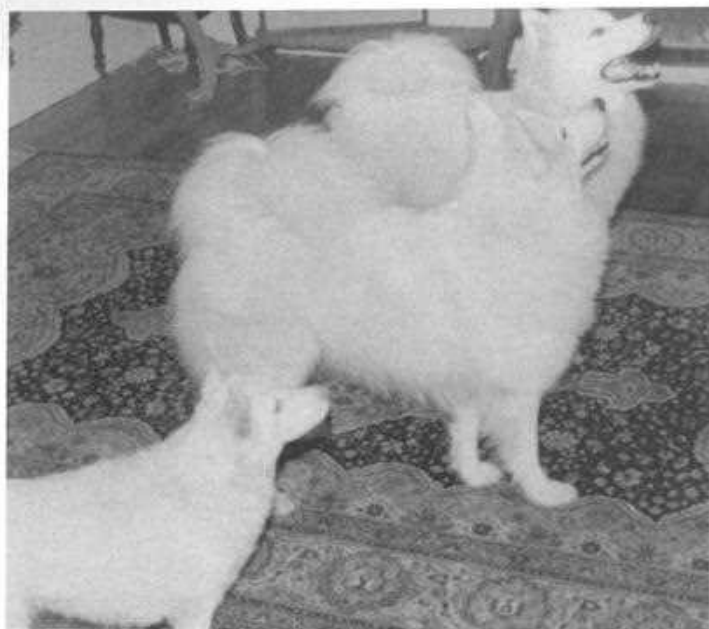
How should a Samoyed move from the front and from the side?

The dog should single-track in front, and from the side you should see the reach and drive. From the rear, you don't want to see them too close, or cow hocked. If they are not put together right in the rear, they will sort of wobble when they move.

What are you looking for in the ideal Samoyed head?



Kalmarli's Sauce Piquante, "Saucie," March 1980.



Our first three dogs: Pinkie, the Spitz, Stashie, their first Sam Spitz, and Adrian, our first Sam show dog.



Queen Silvertip's Natasha, born 1973, and Kalmarli's Adrian of Nola, born 1974.

I prefer a pretty head, with ears that aren't too big. The standard says the ears should be in proportion to the head, but I prefer them on the smaller side. Some dogs have big jug-like ears and I don't like that. It spoils the face. The head should be a wedge with a nice stop. I want

dark, almond-shaped eyes.

Are missing teeth serious in the breed?

Sams are not bothered with missing teeth that much, as are some other breeds. A scissors bite is important in Samoyeds, but I don't think teeth are that important, although you want to

keep them clean, of course.

What do you prefer in color, white, biscuit or cream?

I am not a breeder, but I understand breeders prefer to have the biscuit in their breeding program because that will produce a pure white. I prefer white, especially for showing. Nelli had

a lot of biscuit and sometimes she looked dirty. I could use a whitening shampoo, but she still did not look as clean as some of mine that are really white.

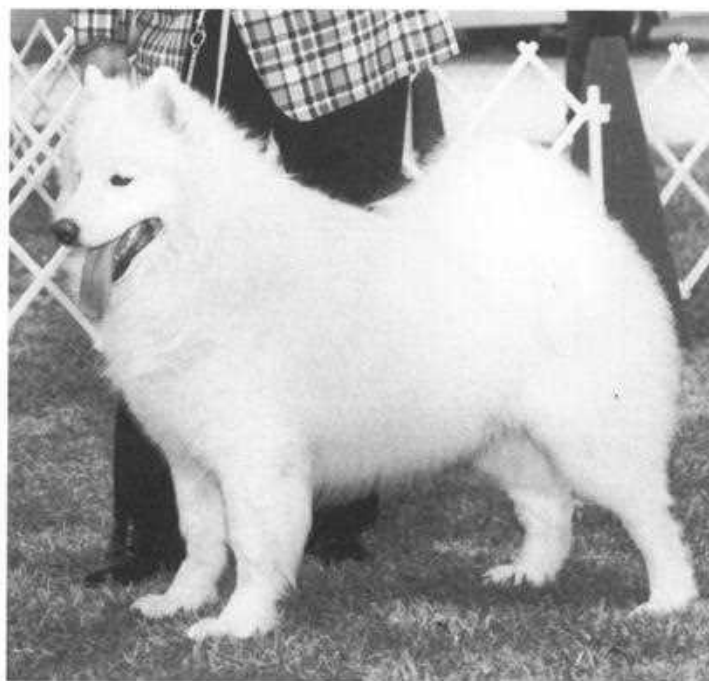
Does color make a difference in winning in the show ring?

Probably some judges who really don't know any better pre-



Mackie. Above right, winning second place from the Veterans class at SCA in Denver.





Ch. Kalmarti's Adrian of Nola, LKC, left in 1979 and right in 1978.

fer the white dogs, but a breeder would not let that bother them that much. At least they shouldn't.

How hard is it to keep a Samoyed in show coat?

If my dogs were younger, it would be pretty hard to show right now, because they all live in the house together and Scarlett chews on Mackie's neck all the time. When I was showing him, he was by himself, while she was in the dog room. Now I let them run together and she likes to chew on his neck. It would be hard to keep up the coats of several dogs. One wouldn't be a problem. When we were showing, we took five or six dogs with us at one time. I would have to give them all baths, because we usually took them all with us to the show. I didn't think it was all that hard at the time. Looking back, I wonder how I did it. I seems almost impossible that I had to do five. I would bathe the dogs at home, dry them and brush them out, but I would wait until I got to the show to groom them. I did all the grooming, while Bill did the showing. It took some of the pressure off me when he started showing, because all I had to do then was groom.

Was that the most dogs you've ever had at one time?

Bill said this morning he thought we had six dogs at one time, but that included our little

Spitz before she died. We did not have six for very long.

Did you have any favorite products?

No. The best thing is to just have the dogs clean. If you have a dog that doesn't have any coat, then you try to put something in the coat so the outer coat stands up. I worried about that a lot with Adrian. I had to groom Mackie at home, because he got so hyper at the show. He wanted to go into the ring and show, and he wanted to go around and see people and visit. I had to do most of his grooming at home. I started out experimenting with different powders, etc., but eventually just made sure they were clean.

Is coat very important to winning in the ring?

A lot of people say it isn't, but I think it is. I've had some good wins with my dogs without any coat, but I also lost a lot of times, knowing if my dogs had had a better coat they would have won. Most judges look at the overall condition and beauty of the dogs.

What is your ideal height for the Samoyed?

If I were going to buy another one for show, I would want one at the bottom of the standard. That's not because I necessarily prefer a smaller dog, but they are easier to keep in the house. When I am watching a show and picking out the dogs I like, they

may be either big or small. Some of my very favorite ones have been big dogs, and some of my very favorites have also been very small. I really don't have a preference. It depends on the dog itself, its quality and personality. A big dog can be beautiful as long as it is well proportioned. Doris McLaughlin used to have a large bitch by the name of Charm and she was the most beautiful bitch I ever saw. She was a large bitch then, although she might not be large by today's standards, when compared to some that are being shown.

What is the ideal Sammy foot?

I like to see a foot in proportion to the rest of the dog. I do not like to see tiny feet on a big dog. I don't want to see the foot too catlike. I don't like to see a flat foot. They can't move correctly with a very flat foot.

Should a dog with bad feet be used?

One slightly splayed foot would not bother a dog's movement if all the rest were okay. You have to consider the whole dog. A dog with feet that are slightly less than perfect may be competing with a dog that is cow hocked, and I would prefer the dog with a slightly bad foot.

What is the ideal Samoyed temperament?

It certainly isn't aggressive. The Sammy has one of the best temperaments of any breed.

They are the friendliest breed. Mine have always been, even when I have guests.

What are the most serious faults in the breed today?

I have not really watched in the last year or two. For a while, there were many bad fronts and rears, but I don't know if that is still the case. From what I understand, they are doing much better on hip dysplasia, so that must not be as outstanding as it once was. The eyes are being tested more, but I'm not sure if breeders are emphasizing that as much as they should in their breeding programs.

Is the Samoyed standard a good one?

Yes. There isn't anything I would want to change.

Should there be disqualifications?

I really think they should withhold more ribbons, especially at smaller shows where there are only three or four dogs and they are all so terrible. They are still given ribbons. That's terrible. It must be hard on a judge to withhold ribbons, because the people might never attend another show, but what is the purpose of a show to begin with?

Should a champion be special?

Not all dogs are specials, and it is expensive to special a dog. If you have a dog that you think is really terrific and you want to use it at stud, specializing gets the dog out before other breeders. That



The garden club; Stashie, Saucie, Nelli and the Stanfield's Elkhound T'sulikagata's Avantgarde.

would be a good reason to special a dog. Or, if you had sufficient money to channel in those directions.

Have you ever done any judging?

No. You have to do more breeding than I've done to be able to qualify as a judge. I'm a good judge, sitting on the sidelines, so I think I'd be a good judge. (laughter) I would never qualify, though, because of the breeding requirements.

Would further popularization of the breed help or harm it?

It would definitely harm it. I have a hard enough time caring for three or four dogs. I don't see how people who have 25 or 30 dogs in a kennel can take care of them adequately by keeping them clean and having their shots kept up. Vet bills are atrocious. I give all my own shots except for rabies and a yearly check up. It is still an enormous vet bill. Samoyeds require attention. They are not like some of the hunting breeds where you can put a bunch into a kennel and forget about them. Samoyeds get lonely. They are very people-oriented. I would also hate to see more Sams on the streets.

Are they good with children?

Yes, very good. They are good with other little dogs. The only thing they are not good with are cats, if they are not raised with them. My neighbors had two little terriers, and when they would go out of town, I would keep the dogs for them. They were scared of Adrian at first, but he taught them how to play. He

would roll over on his back and bark at them, until he would get one to get on his stomach, and then he would throw it off his stomach. He did it gently, and then he would roll over again and they would climb back on again so he would toss them over again. It was a big game they had together. Adrian loved little dogs and he loved children. Mackie is more awkward with other dogs. He doesn't mean to be, but he is

clumsy. I am always afraid he will hurt one because he is a much bigger dog than Adrian, and he has much bigger paws. He is gentle with Scarlett, so I assume he would be gentle with a puppy. He was always so horny. I never wanted to let him be around little dogs very much.

Is judging fair?

Sometimes. Other times it can be very discouraging when you know politics are playing a

part. When I first started out, I saw a lot of politics being played. I know some people send pictures to judges, write letters to them and call them. It can be very political.

Is there anything that can be done to improve it?

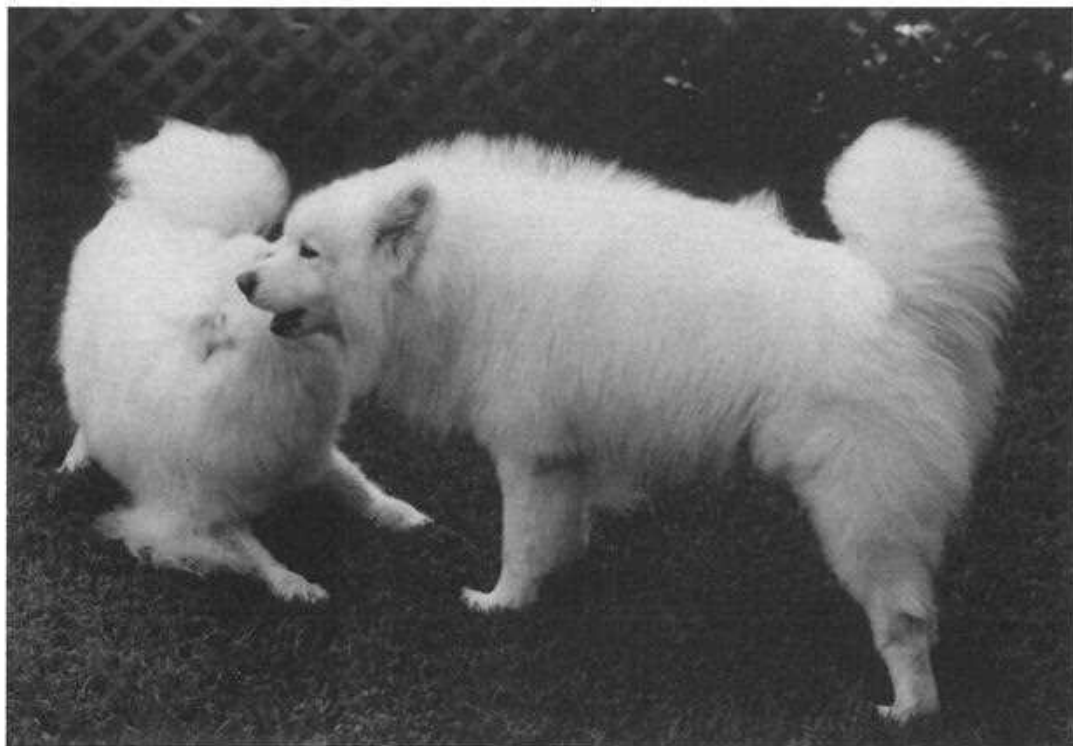
There is politics in everything. I am not sure anything would ever change it. It is so refreshing when you see a judge you think is doing a fair job. You are not going over the dogs yourself, but you can tell which ones are put together better, and when the dogs move you can see most of their faults from the sidelines. If you are at a big show and not exhibiting yourself, and are not being persuaded by people you know in the ring, and you see the judge putting up what you think are the best dogs, it's very refreshing to see that.

Would you rather show under an all breed judge or a breeder-judge?

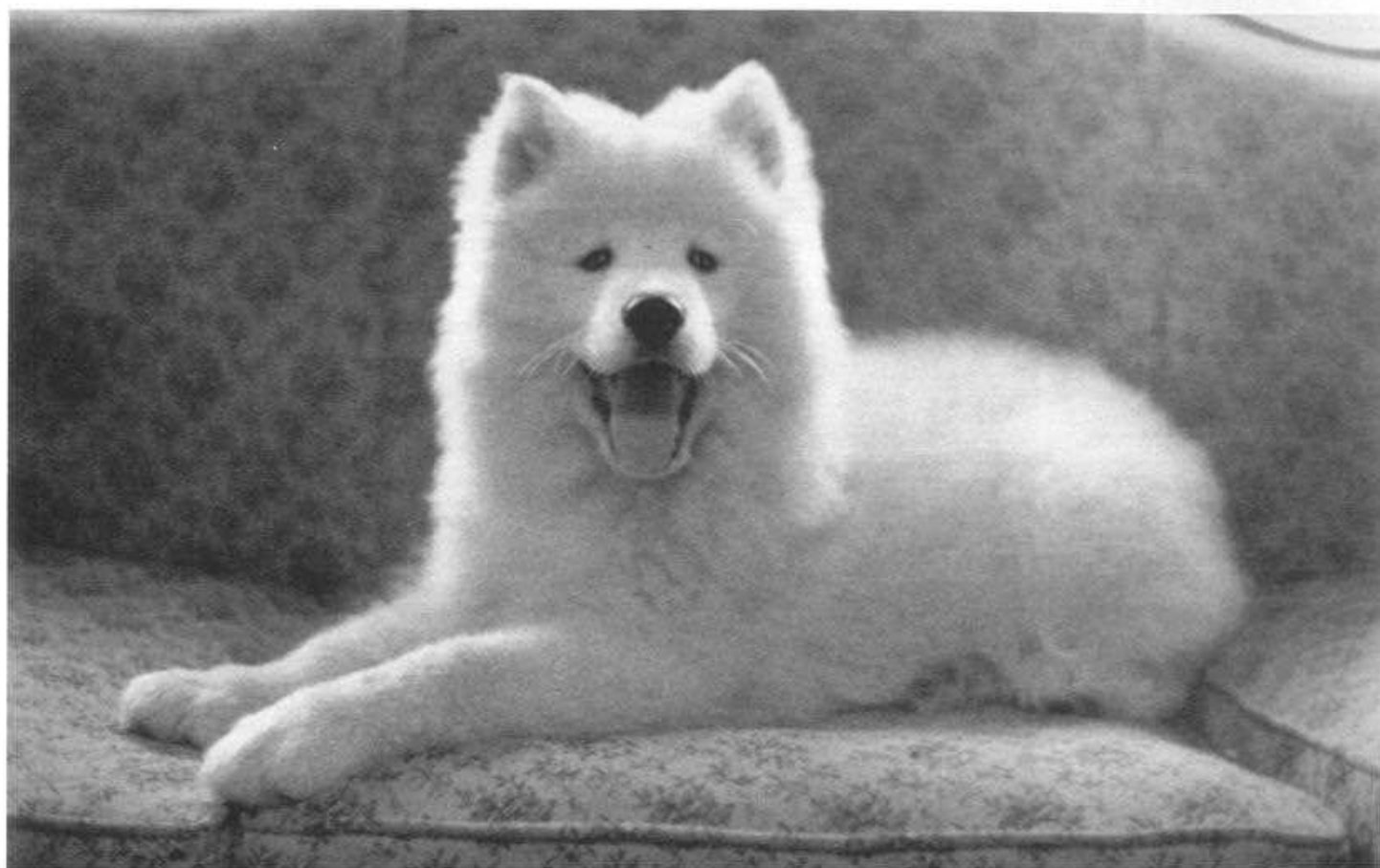
If I had a new puppy, I think I would rather show under a breeder-judge and have his or her opinion of my dog.

Have you ever decided not to show because of who the judge was?

When we first started showing, we showed under anybody because we didn't know anyone. After a while, there were a few we no longer showed under because we knew they didn't



Mackie and Scarlett.



Kalmarli's Adrian of Nola as a puppy.

know anything about Sams and we refused to enter under them. If we went to a show and the judge was switched, and if we saw someone there whose dogs were very competitive with ours, we didn't pull our entry like a lot of people do. We went in and did our thing. We usually didn't win, but we did it anyway.

Does advertising influence judges?

Yes, particularly if a judge doesn't know the breed. They might look into the magazines sent to them to see which dogs are doing a lot of winning. Then when they aren't sure which dog to put up, they know they won't be criticized for putting up the same dog other judges have put up. If a judge doesn't know a breed, advertising would absolutely influence them.

Occasionally people will retouch advertising photographs. Is that ethical?

I have not thought about it before, but I assume it wouldn't be ethical. Fixing a stray hair or something like that is not wrong. There were times when Adrian chewed his front legs so badly that I would love to have covered

that up in some way, but that's not really misrepresenting a dog's structure.

How did you go about choosing handlers when you used them?

We chose one because he was handling Adrian's brother and that dog had done some nice winning. We wanted to get a second major on Adrian. After that, we mostly used Houston Clark and his wife, and a couple of times we picked up handlers at the shows.

Does it work out to pick someone at a show?

It worked for us. We had been to a lot of shows by that time and had stayed for Groups, so we knew which handlers were good with the dogs. It was always somebody we knew and had seen handle a lot.

Have you ever handled anyone else's dogs?

Only for friends who had more than one dog and when one won they had two dogs to handle. Bill took a friend's Siberian Husky to Houston one time and showed it. We never did it for money.

How have you trained your dogs?

We've been fortunate in that

most of our dogs have already been leash-broken when we've gotten them. When we got an eight-week-old puppy, we started her by letting her run around with a leash on her head, and then over her neck. For conformation, we didn't work with them much at home, other than having them stand on the grooming table and staying there. Most of their training was done at matches. We did quite a few fun matches at one point, which are helpful. We also went to the LKC which had training classes for a week before their May show. We would take our puppies to that. I took Saucie to those classes when I was trying to get her over her fright after being attacked by the Rottweiler, to have her around young dogs that I knew were friendly. We went to a couple of handling classes also, but no training classes.

Do you believe in obedience training?

I do. Bill didn't like it. I took Mackie to one after we finished him, because he enjoyed being out and showing. I took him to an obedience class once a week

here in New Orleans, and he had a lot of fun. They wanted me to show him seriously in obedience. It wasn't him. It was me. I could not train myself. We went to one and I messed up so badly that I didn't go back to put him through more of that. I was also busy doing other things and did not really have the time. It was fun for him to go every week, and we still go every now and then when there is something special going on. In fact, he went when the same instructor had the Good Citizenship classes. He went twice and got two certificates. When the instructor has a Good Citizenship class she will ask me to come and help her conduct one, so I will do that.

Are Samoyeds used for tracking or agility?

Some people may do tracking or agility with Samoyeds, but I am not personally aware of anyone who does.

Compared with other breeds, how intelligent is the Sammy?

They are probably too intelligent. They really do have minds of their own. If they want to do something they can do it as well

as any dog. If they don't want to, they simply refuse to do it.

Are they easy to deal with when off-leash?

I wouldn't advise having a Sammy off-leash. My dogs are not so obedient that they wouldn't take off after a cat or something that was across the street that caught their interest. They would want to investigate. They are too curious for you to depend on them being totally obedient. When Mackie was in obedience class, he took it very seriously. I could take him off-leash and put him through training with other dogs. He was very good on his downs and stays off-leash, but if I trained him at home, or somewhere outside of class, it was an entirely different story. He would not stay or do what I wanted him to do, and if he saw something else that was more interesting, he would go to investigate it. They are smart enough to know when they really have to do something, or when they are outside of a situation and don't have to obey.

Can shy or aggressive dogs be corrected by training?

I've seen people trying to do that in obedience classes. I did not see that they succeeded completely, although I have heard they've done that. One man had a Doberman that he said was very aggressive when he found it. It had been mistreated. It seemed to be very well behaved in the obedience class, but I had never actually seen the dog when it was aggressive, and I did not let my dog go up to it to find out. I was told it was a changed dog. I've never seen very many shy Sams, and I have never owned one, so I don't know how trainable they might be.

Do you have any specific advice for someone who wants to handle his/her own dog?

Handling is the fun part, even though I was not a very good example. People miss out on a lot of fun if they don't handle themselves, and they don't really get into the dog game if they don't handle their own dogs at least sometimes. Later on down the line, if they want to get somebody to handle for them, particularly at the bigger shows, that's okay. At the smaller shows, they should do it themselves.

What's the best way to learn?

Going to fun matches and then watching at dog shows. That's what I've advised a lot of

novice people to do. I encourage them to go to the shows and watch, and not just classes, but also Groups. I would be a great teacher for handling. I can tell everybody what they do wrong, but I can't do it myself.

Does a big-name handler help a dog to win?

Not particularly. If they show the dog well and present it

they have to really struggle I don't like to watch that, where they have to encourage the dogs a lot to get them to move. It should be natural. If the dogs want to move it, let them move it, but don't force them. You never know what the health of a dog may be. There may be something that is not observable to the owner.



Nelli Kim.

well, it is the dog that is actually doing the winning. The judge shouldn't look at the handler. The judge should look at the dog, so it depends on how well the dog is presented.

Do Sams do any weight pulling?

Mine have never done it, but we do have weight pulling contests at the specialties. Samoyeds, originally pulled sleds, and the early explorers used them quite a bit. I've watched weight pulling, particularly the Malamutes, and it bothers me. I want to help them. (laughter) I hate to see them struggling. It's okay as long as they give them weight they don't have to struggle with, but when

Should Sams be used for what they were originally bred for?

Sure. I would be doing that if I lived up North. I would be sledging. I thought about entering them here in the Christmas parade, pulling a wagon, but even in December it can sometimes be too hot. They can't be trained beforehand because there is not enough year-around cold weather. We have some cold weather, but it is only for a three or four-month period, and then it is gone.

What do you feed your dogs?

Right now, I am feeding them Joy dry food and then I give them fresh meat when we have turkey or something. I will cut up the

brown meat for them. I have found that they can't eat much of it, however, because it doesn't agree with them. They mostly eat dry food. When they are young, I feed them canned food mixed with the dry food.

How important is diet in raising Sams?

It is very important when they are maturing. I always gave mine calcium. Sometimes I would give extra vitamins, but it depended on whether the diet needed extra nourishment. We tried all kinds of different brands of dog food for Adrian to try to put some weight on him. He was a slow maturing dog and we were showing him when he was a teenager, so to speak, so he was a little thin and didn't have a lot of coat. Normally, you would keep a dog like that at home until it matured, but he was our only show dog at the time, and our first one, so we showed him all the time.

Do you condition your dogs?

There is no way to do it here because of the heat. I used to try to run with them, but it got to be too much. We have a big yard, and when it was cool enough, they used to play and run together when they were younger. If I lived further north, I would probably be out jogging with them. Right now, I used a treadmill at work, so I really don't have to jog in the heat.

Have all your dogs always been house dogs?

Yes, every one of them.

What are your feelings about dogs kept out in kennels?

We bought a couple of kennels, because we thought we would put Adrian outside when it was cold. He liked it outside. When we locked him in one, he didn't like that. The kennels stayed empty after that, except when we would let two males out at the same time. Then we would lock one in a kennel while the other one ran. If we locked them up for too long, all they did was dig and get into trouble by digging out. We put bricks in and they dug all the bricks up. I finally ended up selling the kennels. We would rather fill up the holes in the yard than to try to keep the kennels level. As far as keeping Sams in kennels, I really don't think it is fair to them. They do not have personalities that can be kennelled. They were not bred for that. Especially in the South where you can't roadwork them,

and you can't keep them all groomed or show them all the time, I don't see how you can keep them kenneled. It is cruel to the dogs.

Can adult males and females be kept together?

When I had two males, the Elkhound didn't get along with the Sam male, and vice versa. I kept them separated. One was in the front part of the house, and the other one was in the dog room and kitchen. I never had two male Sams at one time. I have friends who have, and the dogs didn't get along. They would get along until they were a certain age, but usually when a bitch comes into season the trouble starts.

What advice would you give to a show person who is just starting out?

If the person already had a dog, I would try to encourage them and tell them it is a fun thing to do, but I would also tell them the expense of it and how competitive it is. If someone came to me and said they wanted to get a Sam to show, I might try to discourage them to some extent, but only if it was someone who was going to live with their dog in this part of the country. I have seen Sams locked outside in the heat because people don't want the hair in their house. It is too hot for them here in 100-degree weather.

If someone was wanting to get a Sammy, should they go to the kennel with the biggest winners to purchase their pup?

Not necessarily. I always suggest they go to the shows and talk to the breeders and look at the dogs being shown. After they find a dog they really like, then they can talk to the breeder. When they inquire about buying a puppy, if I am sure of the person, I will recommend someone locally. If I am not sure, I will recommend they go to someone out of state. I figure if they pay the plane fare for a puppy, they will take care of it.

Is it easy to fly puppies in from out of state?

Yes. I had a couple call me who lived in Louisiana, had no children and no dogs and had decided they wanted a Sammy. I didn't know anything about them. I recommended a breeder in Denver. They didn't want a show quality dog. They just wanted a pet. It turned out the bitch they got was just wonderful for them. They had a swimming

pool, and this dog with its weak rear started swimming. It would dive off the diving board. We went over there to watch her do it and I have pictures of it somewhere. It built up her body, particularly her rear, and she turned out to be a really beautiful bitch from the exercise she got from swimming. The people didn't know how to housebreak her and were having a hard time doing that. At my suggestion, they bought a crate, but they didn't know how to get her outside when she needed to go. She would go outside and swim and forget what she was supposed to do. There wasn't really a yard. It was strictly a patio and swimming pool. They flew the dog in on a direct flight when they got her and there was no problem. I could have recommended a local kennel, but they had just gotten married and had a new home and I wasn't sure they were really ready for a Sam.

Which kennels would you consider the best today?

I really don't know. The older kennels I dealt with are no longer breeding. If I wanted another dog, I would have to go with a newer kennel and I see their breeding changing every other year or so, and I would want to look for consistency. I might see a beautiful dog that is being shown, but not like his offspring. If I was ready to get one, I don't know who would let me have their best dog. They probably wouldn't do it. I know most breeders keep the best for themselves. That was my only reason for wanting to breed when I did, to try to keep what I had, because I knew I wouldn't get it from a breeder.

Would you recommend joining a local breed club, a national breed club or an all breed club?

With someone getting a Sammy, I would recommend the breed club first. If they were interested in showing, I would recommend the local club. I have been a member of a couple of local clubs, but I haven't kept up with either one.

Is the SCA doing enough to educate judges and new members?

They are doing better with judges. They are holding a lot of judges' seminars.

Is there a lot of rescue work done in Samoyeds?

Not here. I think they still do a lot in California, but I don't know where else. There is nothing

here. In fact, I am the only Sammy person that belongs to the club here in New Orleans. There are Sammy owners, but they have pet quality Sams. Baton Rouge is the closest any breeder lives to me. A friend just called recently who had found a lost Sam. It had not been cared for and I took it and cleaned it up. The SPCA found out I had it and the owners had contacted them. I had to return the dog to the owners and it was very hard. The dog was so weak in the rear from being crated in too small a crate when it was young. The SPCA told me they would investigate themselves, but it was a felony for me to keep the dog.

Is there an AKC video on Sams?

Yes, but I haven't seen it.

Is there enough literature out about Sams?

Yes. I have quite a few books. The Wards have put out two and I have a couple other books on the breed. When I first got into Sams, I didn't know anybody in the clubs. I bought a small paperback book that was very helpful to me and I still refer to it, or did when I had my second litter. It had a very good section on breeding.

How long have you lived in New Orleans?

We moved here in 1964 from Memphis. I grew up about 100 miles from Memphis in northern Arkansas.

What do you do for a living?

I'm a paralegal. I do volunteer work at the museum, too. I give tours about twice a month. I enjoy it.

Do you have any stories about the dogs that you might want to share?

I said Saucie and Mackie were my best show dogs, but Adrian and I were probably the closest. We had a charisma between us. He's been dead now for about fourteen years. I still have a hard time talking about him. Each one has its own personality, and I love them all equally, but Adrian seemed to depend on me for everything. I don't know what it was, but there was something there that made us so close.

How have the dogs affected your lifestyle?

Oh, 100 percent! (laughter) It was funny when we started going to shows. All of our friends we had before, like the intellectual friends Bill had when he taught at the university, all dropped us. They thought we had gone nuts

and that we had gone to the dogs. We had to make new friends, and the old friends never did drift back our way. Dogs can make a complete turnaround in your lifestyle, because people who are not interested in dogs don't want to come to your house with a bunch of dogs hanging around.

What are the benefits of being in dogs?

You meet a lot of interesting people. We had a lot of fun. We didn't go into it with a really competitive attitude and winning wasn't the most important thing to us. We wanted to win, but we were in it to have fun, and if we didn't win, we didn't take it badly, as so many people do today.

Are there any drawbacks?

Not other than the extra housework the dogs cause and the expense. I look back to the time we were showing a lot and think about all the money we spent, but we were having fun doing it, so I don't regret it.

Has it been worth it, then?

Yes. I don't know if I could live without another dog. I have one dog that is thirteen and one that is almost thirteen, and I have been thinking that when they die, I might do some traveling, and then get another dog, but I'm not sure I could even go that long without a dog. My house would seem so empty.

I was going through some pictures the other day and was looking at my first dog. I had two bitches that had these false pregnancies all the time. The first one had even been spayed, and she still thought she was pregnant. I had a picture of her with a wadded up sock in front of her. She used to get the Spitz's rubber toy and put it up under her stomach and sleep with it in her chair for hours. Then Saucie had so many false pregnancies that even though we knew we hadn't had her mated, she had all the characteristics of being pregnant. She didn't take toys and put them under her, but she would lie around all the time like she was pregnant. The dogs are always doing something that is interesting, and they all have such different personalities.

Is there anything we haven't talked about that you would like to mention?

No, I don't think so.

I have come to the end of my questions, so thank you very much!