

THE SAMOYED QUARTERLY

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Samoyed People



The Samoyed Quarterly
Talks With
Dorothy and Maxie Moore
SNOWDEN
Benton, Arkansas

This interview was conducted at the home of Dot and Maxie Moore in July, 1985 by Brenda A. Abbott.

How did you get started in Samoyeds?

Dot: Well, our first Sammy was a little female that a serviceman brought back from England. When he got home he found that his wife didn't feel she could take care of a dog and a toddler in a two-room apartment. We bought the little female and named her Samoa. We kept her about nine months and someone stole her out of our backyard. We didn't have papers on her but she was a purebred Sammy. After we lost her, we started looking for a Samoyed, but at that time there were almost none anywhere in the area. All of this must have been around 1960 because we got

our first registered Sammy in 1962.

Finally we saw an ad in the paper from Winfield, Arkansas. Some people by the name of Lord had moved here from Michigan with a female in whelp. The puppies were for sale and we bought "Samo" when he was nine weeks old.

Maxie: Samo went Breed over three champions at his second show under Marie Myers. She loved to make little noises and her favorite saying was, "You get the tail up; I'll get the ears up!" She would make these little noises and Samo would just come unglued.

Dot: This dog, our first registered Samoyed, was Ch. Samo Silver-Glo of Snowden. His dam was Star of the North II and his sire was Tico. We called him Samo, and put a kennel name of "Snowden" on him, although we weren't planning on breeding or showing. We had never been to a dog show when we got him, but everyone that saw him said we ought to show him, so we started out. We showed him thirty-seven times during his life and he went Best of Breed

thirty-four times and I believe he had seven Group placements including firsts.

That is pretty nice for a first dog.

Dot: Well, that was back when I had no idea on how to show or groom very well. One of the judges, as he handed me a ribbon and a trophy, said, "Lady, you have a far superior dog, but the other handlers did a hell of a better job showing theirs!" (laughter) I tell everybody I am the world's worst handler, but nobody enjoys showing any more than I do.

Did you breed from this dog?

Dot: Yes, when Samo was almost a year old, I decided I would like to have a female. Samo was strictly Maxie's dog.

I found one in Ohio, bred by R. E. Brott. When I phoned him he said he had one female, the runt of the litter, but he thought she would be within the standard because he bred for large sled dogs. She grew to weigh sixty-seven pounds, and I have often wondered what the others in the litter weighed if she was the runt. He also said that she was a kennel dog, and did I know what that meant? I said, "Sure," but not until she arrived did I truly know what a kennel dog was. She had been fed and watered and that was about all. She had to be the ugliest fifteen-week-old pup I have ever seen.

On the plane, her crate had been in a compartment just behind the motors, and she was scared to death. She trembled all the way home. I would have sent her back except that I felt so sorry for her. I cried the entire twenty-five miles home from the airport because she was so ugly, and I was so disappointed. I was expecting a beautiful pup such as Samo had been. She was so ugly that I made no pictures of her until she was eighteen months old, and then she just blossomed. She turned into a very beautiful Sammie, who had five Bests of Breed and two Group placings. She would have had more except that we were showing Samo at the same time, and Samo would go Best of Breed, and Zanna, Best of Opposite. She won her Bests of Breed and Group wins when we would leave Samo at home.

At first she was terrified to ride in a car, so Maxie would drive and I sat in the back seat with Zanna. We would

back out of the driveway, then pull back in. We did this for a week, then we would drive around the block with me talking and petting her all of the time. Within a month, you could not open the car door unless Zanna went along. She became a speed demon. When traveling on the highway at sixty-five or over, she would sit or lay quietly in the back seat. Come to a town where you had to slow down, she would get up, bark and take her paw and hit the driver on the shoulder as if to say, "I said to go faster."

Her name was Ch. Misti Zanna of Snowden. Her sire was Ch. Elkenglo's Dash O'Silver. Her dam was Arka Nishia of Arbee. Those two dogs were our foundation stock.

Do you know how many litters you have bred?

Dot: No, not without checking the records, but I would say no more than twenty. During most of the time, both of us worked and we would only have a litter a year or every two years. This included both Sams and Chows. We just

weren't set up to really take care of puppies.

Do you have any idea how many champions you bred?

Dot: No, but I have personally finished twenty-seven. That is a total for Sammies and Chows, but we have probably bred that many more which have been finished by other people who bought them.

Which dog do you consider to have been your biggest winner?

Dot: I guess Samo was the Sammy winner, although the dog that we got from Shirley Curzon did probably about as much winning. We got Dandi in 1969 and he did a lot of winning, including Group placings. He also was the Number Two stud dog in 1978; this was Ch. Ker-Lu's Snowden Dandi who was out of American and Canadian Ch. Ker-lu's Sunniray of Kobe and Hillhead's Tami. He had five champions finish that year, although I didn't write it up or send it in. I'm not a person who does things

like that and I have never really advertised our dogs. One lady who bred her bitch to him had three champions out of her one litter, and she was the one who wrote this up and sent it in.

Could you tell me about the dogs you have imported from England?

Dot: We imported two dogs from England and two from Canada. Then we have bought several others that other people imported. English and American Ch. Fairvilla White Imp was the first one that we imported. She was the most beautiful Sammy female I have ever seen and I don't say that just because I owned her. Ch. Fairvilla White Imp was an English champion and had six English Challenge Certificates when I bought her. Her sire was English Champion Lealsam's Snowgleem and her dam was English Ch. Silver Imp of Sword Dale. Another dog we imported was Samovar Krystyna and we still have her. Her sire was English Ch. Grenadier of Crensa, England's top winning dog in all breeds. He had over forty CC's. Her dam is English Ch. Snowcryst Fair Madonna, who finished her title at Cruft's.

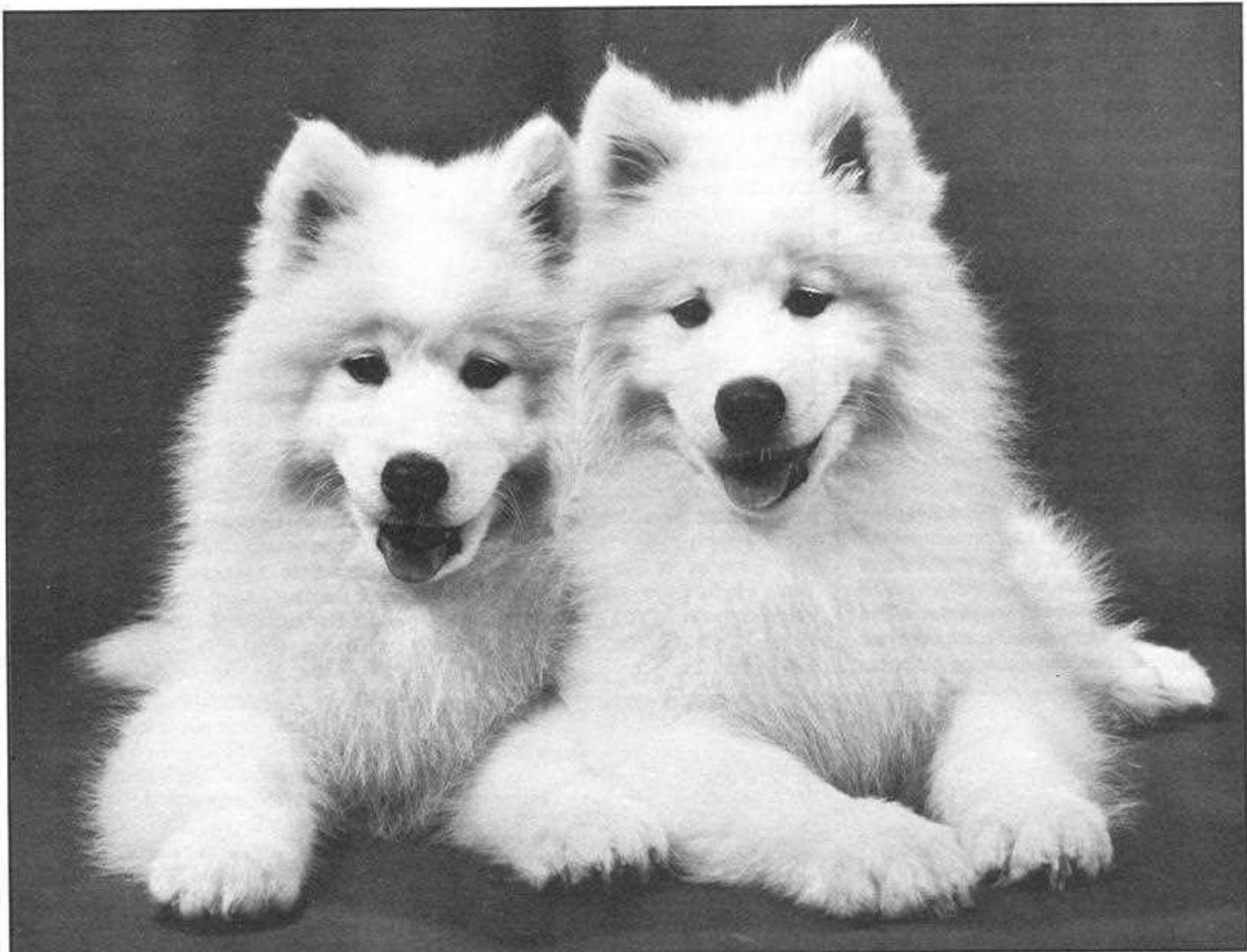
Then we had Ch. Star of Kobe that we bought from her importer, Dr. Waller. Her sire was English Ch. Sunny Star of Kobe, her dam, Silver Snowflake. Then we bought Sworrdale Silver Citrine, bred by Mrs. Ross out of Sworrdale Snow Lion and Sworrdale Silver Rosanna. About a year ago, we acquired Novaskaya Silva Starblaze, better known as "Frosty." His sire is Novaskaya Silva King, his dam, Novaskaya Silva Starinda.

How did you get interested in importing these dogs?

Dot: Well, I just actually like the English type of Sammy very much. I had lost Zanna and was looking for another female to replace her. I have an English friend who is a judge and I wrote to her saying I was looking for a good female and if she ran across one, to let me know. She wrote that she had found one that was for sale, but hadn't asked the price or anything. That was up to me and the owner. I got on the phone and called and we agreed on a price and the date to ship. I still have her daughter, her granddaughter and her great-granddaughter today. Her daughter is Ch. Fairvilla White Imp of Snowden, her daughter is Ch. Snowden's Sweet Little Sheba, and then her daughter is Snowden's One in a Million, and she has



Ch. Samo Silver Glo of Snowden.



Ch. Snowden's Sweet Little Sheba and Ch. Snowden's Miss Personality - age 12 weeks.

five points on her championship.

What did you call the first imported bitch?

Dot: We called her "Big Sally," (laughter) and the daughter we call "Little Sally!" They were calling her "Sally" when we brought her over and then after she had puppies, we had a little Sally. We only had her a year and a week and we lost her with an infected uterus. After she had the pups, she died when they were only four weeks old. That litter was sired by Ch. Ker-lu's Snowden Dandi. We kept Ch. Fairvilla White Imp of Snowden out of that litter and we bred her to Snowden Kristis Dash'O Dandi. They produced Ch. Snowden's Miss Personality and Ch. Snowden's Sweet Little Sheba. We bred "Sheba" to Novaskaya Khan Lafay, an English dog brought back to the States by Lt. Col. Larry Townsend when he returned from a tour of duty in England.

Everything I have is English bloodline; I have used some American lines like the Drayalene, but they are all gone today. Everything that I have now is entirely English bloodlines.

Maxie: We actually started out with the Drayalene line and then went to the English.

Dot: Yes, we did breed Zanna once to Ch. Shaloon of Drayalene; we had five or six puppies in that litter. Then I took one of their daughters to Canada and bred to American and Canadian Ch. Sunniray of Kobe, but I didn't get any puppies. Another English dog that we have is Ker-Lu's Snowlad of Whitewisp. His mother was bred in England and then shipped over here to whelp the litter. He only needs a major to finish.

Who or what has most influenced the direction you took with your breeding program?

Dot: I was looking for another Samo (he strictly looked English) and I have been hunting another one ever since. The nearest that I have probably found to him is Frosty, that I have right now. He is also from England, Novaskaya's Silver Starblaze. He was born in England and was shipped over here as a pup. I got him from the people who imported him. They had a terminal illness in the family and found they couldn't take care of him. He was ill when I got him, I'm sure, but we did not know it. He could not bark. I thought his vocal cords had been cut, but the vet said no, and we started doctoring him for a sore throat. It just didn't get better, so finally the vet decided to X-ray his lungs. When he did, he couldn't believe what he saw! He changed the film, sent the girls out for new developer ... but what had happened was that the left lung was solid. It looked just like old

suet when they took it out; they sliced it up and let me see it. The entire thing was just a solid mass of suet. That was why the vet, when he listened, couldn't hear any air passing through it or anything unusual.

What caused this?

Dot: It is caused by a bacteria that is in the soil everywhere, but it doesn't normally lodge in an organ and start growing. It was neither fungus nor malignant.

Is there a name for this condition?

Dot: They don't have a name for it because this is only the second time they have seen it. I do have the name of the bacteria that causes it - Nocardia Atypical Mycobacterium. Frosty will be written up in the medical reports because he had the entire lung removed and has survived. I had to take him to LSU Veterinary School of Medicine. They didn't give me any hopes of getting him off the table; they said they had never put a dog to sleep before that had pneumonia (which is basically what they call anything that congests the lung). He had been running a temperature of 105 and that is what it was when I left here with him to go to Baton Rouge. When we got down there, they reran all the tests that my vet had run; they went into his lungs to try and get a biopsy, going in through his side and down his trachea. They did all this over again and it took them a week before they decided to take the lung out, but my vet here had already said that was the only thing to do. They wanted to run all the tests again to be sure they didn't have an alternative. They did take it out and he was put on a respirator and in intensive care just like a human. They are still amazed that he is alive, and they called my vet about three weeks ago to see how he was doing. He was two years old in December when they did all of this. He is now fine, back up to sixty pounds from forty pounds and got a clean bill of health at his last checkup.

What is the most Samoyeds (or dogs) you have ever had?

Dot: I'd say thirty was the most we have ever had at once, and I suppose about fourteen of them were Sammies. Right now we have fourteen Sams and nine Chows.

Are you as active in the Chows as you are in Samoyeds?

Dot: Yes. In fact, we have probably done more winning with the Chows than we have with the

Samoyeds. I've had Chows that have been in the Top Ten three different years, and that was with me just showing what little I could on weekends when I was working. We don't show extensively and I do all my own handling. I've never let anyone handle my dogs. I guess I attend about thirty shows a year; there are only nine in Arkansas, so I have to go out of the state. Lately I haven't made Fort Smith and Fayetteville because I'm working on the shows for the Arkansas Kennel Club and Southeast Arkansas Kennel Club and helping get those ready.

When you make a breeding, do you assist the dogs?

Dot: Yes, I never let them mate alone.

Have you ever refused stud service on a bitch that was brought to you?

Dot: Yes. I won't breed one unless it is almost show quality. I had one that had blue eyes that was brought to me! I try to check up on them and know what they are before I agree, so that I can tactfully refuse if I have to. I won't breed a bitch on her first season, and I don't like to on the second. I have once or twice, but normally I don't.

What is a fair price for a stud service in this area of the

country?

Dot: I get \$150.

What about the price of puppies?

Dot: I get \$250 to \$300.

Do you sell for cash only, or do you accept terms or co-ownerships?

Dot: The first co-ownership I have ever had on a dog is right now with Frosty. My dogs are part of the family and if I saw someone doing something to a dog that I didn't like, and I co-owned it, I would be very put out. They have to be out of my control or I just couldn't take it. I just won't co-own dogs, although I do co-own Frosty with Larry Townsend. He located him, and flew him in, and just didn't have a place to keep him. The agreement is that I have total control over him but if I should ever have to get rid of him, Larry wants a say-so in who gets him. That is a very lenient co-ownership and he is pretty much my dog! (laughter) I just can't get rid of him without Larry's consent, which is not unreasonable.

Has your breeding program been based on linebreeding, inbreeding or outcrossing?

Dot: I don't like to do inbreeding. I do a little linebreeding, but it is marginal.

Do you then primarily



Ch. Ker-Lu's Snowden Dandi.



Novaskaya Silva Starblaze - "Frosty."

outcross?

Dot: No, as long as I stay within the English bloodlines ... I am doing linebreeding, but not like half brother and half sister or anything like that. I tend to do uncle to niece but not close linebreeding. I think in inbreeding, you run too great a risk of getting bad dogs. To me, your chances are better for that than for getting your exceptionally good dogs, which once in awhile, you can get. When you outcross, you really don't know what you are going to get. You just throw it all in the bag and hope for the best.

What fault would keep you from breeding to an otherwise outstanding dog?

Dot: I don't have any one fault that I particularly dislike. If the dog had something really bad, like a dropped ear or a horribly bad bite or hip dysplasia, I wouldn't breed to him at all. But if he is basically an all around good dog, and his bloodlines were compatible, I would breed to him. I would have to have a dog, myself, with English bloodlines because I intend to stick to that.

What about his temperament?

Dot: That has to be good. Anybody can like a dog that is nice, well-behaved and anybody can pet it. It doesn't matter how good a dog is if he is going to bite you when you reach out to pet it; nobody wants it. Temperament is high on my list.

Do most of your puppies go to show homes or pet homes?

Dot: First of all, it has to be a GOOD home, and then if they show it,

great. I want it to have a good home, first and foremost.

Which is one reason why temperament is so important!

Dot: Right. It is hard to get good homes for bad tempered dogs.

Have you ever trained for obedience with your Samoyeds?

Dot: Yes, Maxie put Samo through to his C.D. We worked Zanna and she could have gotten hers, but I never did put her through. Then I had Ch. Snowden's Miss Personality who was a granddaughter of Ch. Fairvilla White Imp, and we lost her last year to cancer of the kidney. I had put her through obedience and she was tops in her class; we never went for the C.D., but she could have easily. She was one of the sweetest dogs I have ever had.

Maxie: When we were showing Samo and Zanna, we had electric windows on the car and Zanna would let the window up and down to suit herself. She knew which way it was going, too; she didn't play with it. We were down in Houston one time and that was when they were having the show in the parking garage there. I brought the car into the parking garage and had the crate in the back. I had forgotten to let the windows down when I left the car for a minute, although it was cool anyway. I went back for the crate and, as I was standing behind the car, Zanna let the windows down as some lady came by. She stopped and looked at her kind of funny (she didn't even see me) and said, "Well, if I hadn't seen it, I wouldn't have believed it, and I don't believe it anyway!" (laughter)

At what age do you evaluate your puppies?

Dot: About six weeks, and then I prefer them to be about twelve weeks before I actually choose the one I am going to keep. First of all, I want it to have a good gait with all four feet running in the same direction. I like a good coat, dark eyes, well-set tail, good temperament and that is about all you can tell about a twelve-week-old puppy.

Is there anything in particular you have noticed in using the English lines?

Dot: You usually have excellent coats, very dark eyes. They will be a little smaller than many of the dogs that are being shown now, although I do have one that is totally English and he looks like a young pony! I don't know where he got his size, so it is not to say you can't get some big ones. Ch. Fairvilla White Imp was a fairly large dog, and Ch. Samovar Krystyna is a large female, so they do have some large dogs over there.

What sizes do your dogs normally run?

Dot: About twenty-one inches on the bitches and I have some males that are twenty-three, and a bitch that was twenty-two.

Twenty-two inches on the bitches? That is a good sized bitch.

Dot: I'm sure Kristi will go twenty-two.

Maxie: You are talking about the top of what you are looking for and she is asking what size is ideal for you.

Dot: I'm sure Kristi is twenty-two

and I am sure Percy would have been twenty-two. An average Snowden bitch will be around twenty-one, but some of the English ones can go larger.

Do you cull your puppies for any reason?

Dot: I sell for show quality or pets, but as far as putting one down for some reason, no. I have a little female now that is six years old and the valves in her heart did not close when she was born. She was what would be called a "blue baby" in humans. As soon as I found out, when she was about three weeks old, I took her to the vet and he said there was nothing we could do and I would lose her. I took her to Oklahoma University, School of Veterinary Medicine at Stillwater, when she was six weeks old, and they had five doctors around and used her to make a teaching tape of her heart because it was so bad. The doctor said there was nothing to do but put her down and I asked if she was in pain. He said, "No, she is not in pain, but all you are doing is just prolonging your agony." I said, "Well, she is my dog and she is my agony; I'm going to keep her!" He said she probably wouldn't make it to the age of eight weeks and I said, "Fine, I'm going to take her home and she can be happy for two more weeks." She is now six years old and going strong.

Is she as active as the other dogs?

Dot: Yes. She is my little "herding dog." She can herd any of the other dogs and make them sit in the corner if she wants them to! (laughter) She is really a tiny little thing with a beautiful coat and face. We have never bred her, of course; she is strictly a pet, but she is a total joy with the prettiest little face you have ever seen. I was talking to the vet, who sent me to the vet school at Stillwater, not long ago; he has left this area now, and he said, "Mrs. Moore, that is one time I'm glad you didn't take the veterinarian's advice." I take her in every year for a checkup and they do an EKG on her; she gets one little heart tablet a day and has all of her life. I do restrict her exercise; I let her out in the morning for a couple of hours and maybe at noon for an hour and then again later. She doesn't just run totally wild, but she does play with the other dogs all the time.

Describe your idea of the ideal Samoyed.

Dot: I like one that is square and fairly heavy boned. I don't like the

exceptionally heavy bone, so I will say "medium-heavy." Very alert and a little on the rowdy side, I prefer. I don't want one that is really docile. Dark eyes, good coat, good tail carriage, nice movement with good reach, good drive and single-tracking when they reach a certain speed.

Have you done pretty well picking "your" puppy out of your litters?

Dot: I'll tell you, I usually let my heart rule my head when it comes to keeping a puppy. The one that gets

closest to me or that I fall in love with ... I don't normally keep the best. Look at little Peewee, the one with the heart problem; she is the one I kept out of that litter because she was the one that needed me. That is usually the way I keep my puppies; I just fall in love with one and that is the one I keep. And, so far, it hasn't been a bad method! (laughter)

How important is pigment to you, having the English dogs as you do?

Dot: It is VERY important. That is



Ch. Misti Zanna of Snowden.

where I get my very dark eye that I like. I don't like biscuit on them, but the English do have the biscuit behind the ears and Kristi had goggles. When she got off the plane, I thought, "Gosh, why didn't they wash that puppy's face?" She was about fifteen months old, and I got her home and scrubbed and scrubbed and it wouldn't come off. Now, as she has gotten older, they have faded but a lot of her puppies and grandchildren have them. There is some biscuit and the English breed for it in order to keep the dark eyes and nose and lip line. Basically, I do have the white coats with the dark eyes ... maybe they had enough pigment in them before I got them to be able to do this!

Is our standard a good one? Are there any changes you would make?

Dot: It is a good one. It does give some variation in the shape of the head and the body and all, but it still lets a person breed for his own ideal to a certain extent and still stay within the standard. I can't think of any changes I would make, although I do hate to see them sculpturing our Sammies as they are doing now. I prefer them to be shown more naturally. In the next ten years, they will probably all be sculptured as much as the Poodles are. You are seeing an awful lot of it, and that would be the one thing I would stop if I could.

Do you prefer whiskers on or off?

Dot: I usually trim mine, but I have shown them both ways. It doesn't matter to me one way or the other.

Do you do any trimming on your dogs?

Dot: I trim the hocks straight down and trim the feet, and that is about it. Otherwise they are shown naturally.

Is judging fair today?

Dot: With most judges. Some of them are very political, but most of them try to do a good job. I dislike seeing some of the handlers come up and hug the judges or get them off in a corner to pass a bottle of liquor, or take them out to dinner. That type of thing should definitely be stopped. I don't really have any kick coming because I have done my fair share of winning and I don't know ten judges that I could walk up to and call them by name and they would know who they were talking to! You do see a lot of underhanded things going on.

Do you feel the judges respond to this with ring placements?

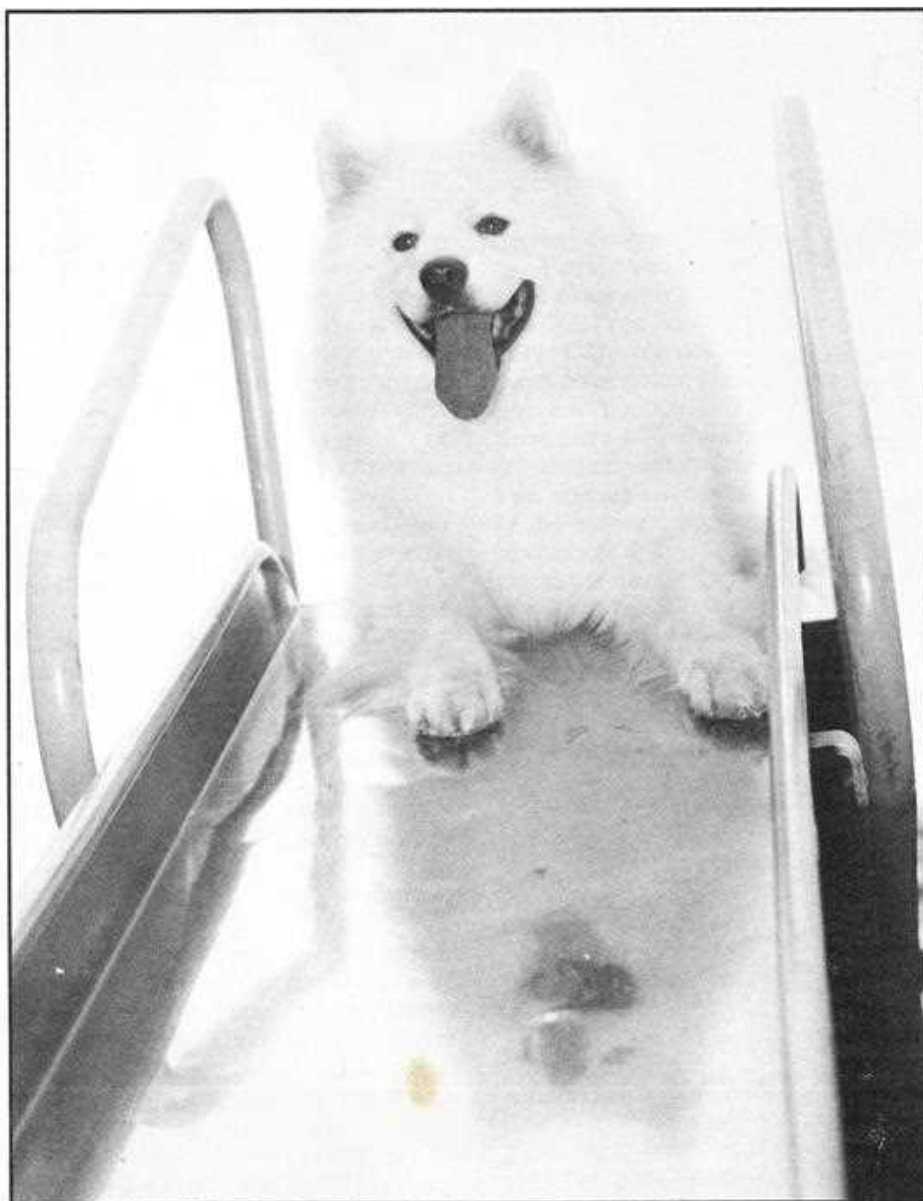
Dot: I'm sure some of them do, but a handler still has an advantage because they don't take a dog that isn't good and they show them to their very best. They can take a fault and make it look like an advantage when they get through with it, and you do have this to consider when you are going up against a professional handler. I don't have any big kick with any of them.

Does advertising influence judges?

Dot: Yes, because most all of the publications are sent to the judges and they see it and know this handler has the top winning dog and they would hesitate to put one over it. That has a lot to do with it.

Does it help, then, to have a professional handler on your dog in the ring?

Dot: Yes, if you are willing to put him out and let him be treated like some of the professional handlers treat their dogs. Which is why I don't, and I have just about reached a point where I can't move fast enough now to show a Sammy because I have arthritis in my back and legs. I have five dogs now that just need majors to finish, and one has six Reserves to majors and I am sure that it is my handling, because I just can't move him at the right gait. He really moves out and I just can't move



Snowden's Kristi's Dash of Dandi.

that fast anymore. I may just have to take him ringside and give him to someone and have them show him. I hope I can even do that, because he is such a "momma's boy." He won't even walk on a lead with Maxie, but I'll probably never be able to finish him myself.

Do you do all of your own grooming?

Dot: Yes, bathing and grooming. I love to groom.

It's a good thing, with Chows and Sammies. (laughter)

Dot: I do. It takes about three hours to do one.

How do you start training your puppies?

Dot: I just use a little choke chain and a tiny little leash and we get out in the yard. I go which ever way they want to go, and then eventually, we get to going my way. Like I say, I am the world's worst handler because I won't do anything to hurt the dog or make it behave. They try to please when they finally learn what I want. It may take me a little longer to get them in show shape, but the results are the same. I do have happy dogs in the ring.

Do you do any obedience training at all?

Dot: I do some but I don't put any of them through until they get their championship, because it tends to take the sparkle out of them, especially the way some people do the obedience training. This is not what I want in my show dogs. I am not high on the obedience training that we have in this area. I belong to two different clubs that have obedience in connection, and sometimes I will take my dogs to class but when the dogs in the class sit, I will stand mine. I mostly just take them to socialize them with other dogs.

How important is prior training to winning in the ring?

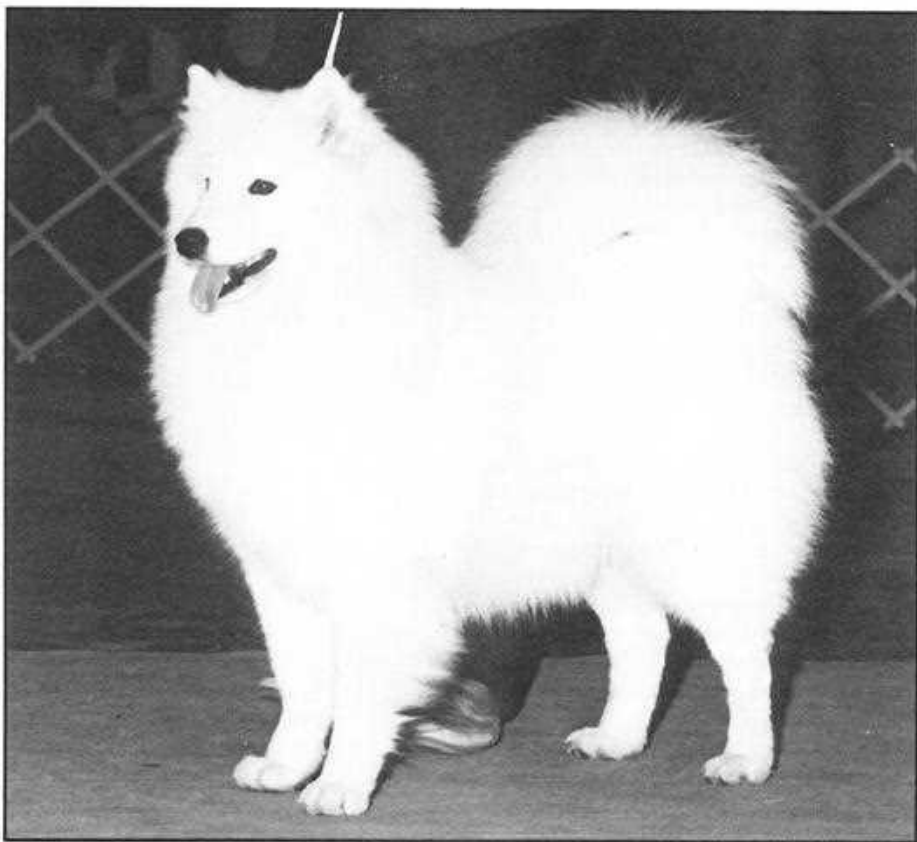
Dot: It is very important because they must stand, bait, animate and move and you don't have a prayer of a chance in most cases if your dog won't do this. You can't walk out of the backyard and into the ring today. But the training doesn't have to be with a pinch collar; it can be done with love and patience.

Have you ever had any environmentally caused temperament problems that you needed to work on with a dog?

Dot: Only once and that was before we moved out here. We had three little



Ch. Snowden's Miss Personality.



Snowden's One In A Million - "Milli."



Ch. Fairvilla White Imp of Snowden.

boys that lived behind us and they deviled Samo something awful. We would find sticks and rocks thrown in the yard when we got home from work. Samo got to the point that he actually hated little boys, and he would have bitten one. After we moved out here where we had no children around us, he was back to his old normal, sweet self. There was a time when I was actually afraid for a little boy to get in the backyard with him; I wasn't sure what he would do. Those boys would take a stick and run up and down the fence to annoy him. Their mother worked and they were there by themselves. We did have a Chow female once who had about five points and had a Best in Match at a fun match. She was just going great guns and these friends came over with their 12-year-old son. He went out in the backyard and about thirty minutes later, I heard this little female barking in fear. You can tell the difference in a bark! This boy had pulled his coat up backwards over his head and had been chasing her around the yard, and he backed her up in a corner and frightened the little thing nearly to death. After that, any time a stranger stopped over her, she went berserk, and I never could show her again. She didn't try to bite, but she would back up and I felt a championship just wasn't worth that to me. That really ruined one good Chow.

How and what do you feed your dogs?

Dot: I feed ANF and Gaines burgers, and then if I have one that

doesn't eat, I boil chicken. We fed boiled chicken necks for years until Maxie had his heart attack and couldn't lift the seventy-pound frozen blocks. Neither of us can lift that much and so we had to stop using it. We went to Alpo for the meat and Gaines burgers. We feed the adults once a day and keep food out for the puppies all the time. I do give Pet Tabs, and if one has a coat that tends to be dry, I use Linatone.

How do you wean your puppies?

Dot: I let Momma do that. They stay with Momma until they are sold. I start out feeding a mixture of lams

Puppy Food mixed in the blender with Hill's Science Diet and powdered milk. I make a gruel out of that in the blender and that is what I start my puppies on. Then, if they want to eat what Momma has, fine, but they also have their little pan of food for as long as they need the soft food. Then when they can eat hard food, I put them on lams Puppy Food.

Do you condition your dogs for the show ring?

Dot: They pretty much self-exercise themselves. We have three different yards that are each over one-half acre, and they run there. I don't roadwork them or anything.



Eng/Am Ch. Fairvilla White Imp - "Sally."

Do your dogs all run together?

Dot: Basically, although we do have a few that will fight each other, so they are exercised separately. I can put ten or twelve Chows and Sams out together, red and white all mixed up.

Do you only have the red Chows?

Dot: Yes, I have five generations of red Chows and they range from the dark red to light, but no black.

What about males running together?

Dot: I have two that we keep in the same run all the time. Most of them can run with all the others. Once a Chow fights another dog, you can never let those two dogs together again because a Chow can see him half a block away and will make a beeline for him as hard as he can run! He will grab him by the front leg and throw him, so if a Chow and a Sammy ever have a fight, then never again can those two be together and that is basically what we have to keep apart. I have several Sammy males that run with another male all the time. We really don't have a big problem with fighting; Kristi will fight any other dog that I put my hand on when she is with me because she is so jealous. It isn't that she is mean, she just wants the attention.

Have you had a favorite dog in all these years?

Dot: Yes, Old Mamma Zanna, Big Sally and Little Sally, and then Percy. Percy was my dream.

Describe her for me.

Dot: She was a little larger than most people like. When she went in the show ring the judges either put her Best of Winners or at the tail of the line. There was no in between. If they liked a big, beautiful dog, they put her up. I finished her with a five-point major by going Best of Winners over forty-six Sammies, but if the judge didn't like her... She had a tremendous coat and just sparkled in the ring. She moved so well you just didn't feel her on the lead. She just seemed to float around the ring, and you never had to move a foot because when she stood, she would walk into a perfect stance. Big Sally was like that also; you never moved a foot. We were in Huntsville, Alabama once and I was showing Big Sally. The judge worked me, and worked me and worked me! I thought this thing was probably rigged; he must have been supposed to put up somebody else and I

showed up and he was waiting for me to make a mistake. He finally gave me Winners Bitch and Best of Winners and I guess it was five or six years later that some woman who lived in Huntsville recognized me. I was at a Malamute specialty with some friends, and she asked me if I had shown this Sammy in Huntsville several years ago when the judge worked me and worked me. I said, "Yes," and she said, "Have you ever wondered why?" I said I certainly had and she said, "Well, I was talking to that judge later and your dog made a lasting impression on both of us. He said he

had never seen a dog move that well, and he just couldn't get enough of watching her move." I said, "Well, I'll tell you what, he just about wore this old lady out!" (laughter) She was a joy to show and all you had to do was get into the ring with her and hang onto the lead.

Have you had a male like that?

Dot: I guess Samo was a favorite, and he was the first one. Usually your first dog, especially if he is good, is your favorite.

What advice would you give someone today who would like



In 1984 the Arkansas Kennel Club awarded Max and Dot Moore a Recognition Award for "the protection and advancement of dogs."

to get into the breed and begin showing?

Dot: To wait and buy a good dog. Don't just decide you want a Sammy and go buy the first one you can get, which is what many people do and then they regret it. Then, train your dog with love. I think whether you get a male or a female is up to the individual because, to me, it doesn't make a bit of difference. The only consideration would be that someone should have the facilities for taking care of a female in season. To learn to handle a dog, I would advise that someone go to shows and watch professional handlers and then join a club with conformation classes. Attend those and talk to people who handle their own dogs. It can be done. You see better dogs put up over yours occasionally, but that is not hard to take. I usually feel the other dog deserved the win because of the way my dog acted, or the other fellow outhandled me.

Are there any kennels in the country today that you feel are doing a particularly good job of breeding Samoyeds?

Dot: There are a lot of good Sammy kennels, but I would hate to name any because I might leave out someone. I do think this Razzmatazz is a beautiful dog.

Have you been in this location long?

Dot: We have been here about eighteen years. We are on five acres. We have no children and our dogs are our family.

How have the dogs affected your life?

Dot: They have tied us down. Before we got so many dogs we travelled a lot. We were going to Canada and Mexico and Florida and those were all nondog show trips.

What have been the advantages to having the dogs?

Dot: Just loving them.

Maxie: I'd have to say the people we have met. We have some very close friends that we would never have known without the involvement of the dogs.

Dot: That's true; I didn't think of that angle. You sure don't make any money at it! (laughter) It is a very expensive hobby. And Maxie usually stays home and takes care of the dogs while I take off for the dog shows. But he likes to go and I like to stay home, so this hasn't worked out quite right.

Then how did you end up with

this arrangement? (laughter)

Dot: I'm awful at handling a dog, but he is worse. That's how it happened.

Maxie: And I don't fool with the grooming. I just enjoy being at the dog shows and meeting people.

Dot: He likes people better than I do; I like dogs.

Has it all been worth it?

Dot: Oh sure; I can't imagine what it would be like without a Sammy or a Chow.

Maxie: I told Dorothy the other day that we were going to have to cut back because we are not as young as we were. We have more dogs now than we had when we were younger. She looked at me funny and said, "Well, I just hope I am never without a puppy!" So I figured all my lecturing was for naught. She went out and got herself another puppy.

Dot: Yes, a Sheltie. We went to a fun match and that little thing looked up at me with the sweetest face ... I picked it up out of the exercise pen. I fell in love with it and I came home with it. Never in my wildest dreams have I ever contemplated owning a Sheltie Sheepdog. I had never even seen one that I thought I liked. She is so cute; this is my first registered dog ever that was not a Sam or a Chow. Her breeder is a past president of the Sheltie Club of America. They also do quite a bit of obedience work, but I don't think I will.

Have you ever considered judging?

Dot: I do judge at fun matches occasionally, but I would much rather show my dogs than judge. I'll never go out to really judge. I have judged the Working, Non-Sporting and now Herding Groups at matches, but I really don't like to judge. I would rather show my dog and if they can get anyone else to judge, I prefer that.

Where do you plan to go from here with your breeding program?

Dot: We are going to have to begin to slow down on it because we are not getting any younger. Some of the dogs that we have now will likely be alive when we die anyway. We have our will written to provide for them, but even so. We will stay with the English lines.

Is there anyone else in the country working this strongly with the English lines that you know?

Dot: Yes, Betty Moody has moved to the States now, and she sent two

females down here to be bred. One of them didn't take, but the other bitch has seven puppies. There is another lady in New Jersey, Linda Stomiany, who is doing the English bloodlines. She is just getting started and has about five dogs. She got one of my male puppies from Frosty and Snowflake, and is planning to send a bitch down to be bred to Laddie. We bred Frosty to Snowflake about a week after we got him and had a nice litter of two males and five females.

What litter, overall, do you consider to be your best?

Dot: I would say Fairvilla White Imp bred to Dandi. I kept two out of the litter and finished both of them. Then I suppose the other best litter would be Samo and Zanna, because we had four finish out of one litter. I finished one whole litter of Chows, and also have a Best in Show on a Chow.

Maxie: One of our problems with conformation judges is that they want a little wind-up toy out there, and that is not a true Sammy. We have "real" dogs.

Are there any special highlights or big moments in your life with your dogs?

Dot: Yes, several. The first, of course, was when we finished our first champion, Samo, then almost as great with Zanna because she was so ugly as a pup, and we had given up all hopes for her. Then to see her go on to be a Group winner was thrilling. All of my Group wins have been fun, and especially my Best in Show. Our most recent honor was to receive the Arkansas Kennel Club's annual award for outstanding achievement and service with dogs. It can be awarded to anyone in Arkansas, not just a club member. When we received the award in 1984, it came as a total surprise, and we feel very honored to have been awarded this recognition.

Thank you very much.

You're welcome. *