

THE SAMOYED QUARTERLY

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Samoyed people

The Samoyed Quarterly
Talks with
**Jeffrey Skinner and
Dr. Shauna Brummet**
HOBBY HORSE FARM
Wadsworth, Ohio

Part II

This interview was conducted at the home of Jeffrey Skinner and Dr. Shauna Brummet in August of 1998 by Connie Porter.

Do you feel the breed should do what it is bred for?

Shauna: Yes. There is probably less opportunity to do sledding but it depends on where you live. More northerly climates or places that get more snow than what we have the last few years can certainly do their sledding. We have more of an option to do the herding because we have animals of our own to herd and the weather is a little more conducive to that activity. Even if you don't get to do it all the time it is important to keep the breed physically and mentally able to do their jobs so if someone buys one from you and decides they would like to do some herding or sled work - they can do that. The animals should be capable of doing their work. And probably, a lot of their work was lying on people's feet and keeping them warm, and they certainly are good at that. (laughter)

Are your breedings natural or controlled?

Shauna: They are in-

between. Since moving here we have a completely fenced area that they can't escape from and we will let them out in the backyard. We have about two acres fenced in just as the dog yard. We'll let the two loose out there - the male and the female that we are going to breed - and let them have their real courtship. You would be surprised at how much of a courtship it is. However, when the male actually mounts the bitch we go out and just kind of be there and make sure he gets turned around all right - then we sit there and hold them, no matter what the weather is. We have been under umbrellas, in snow, in heat and everything else. (laughter) But we have never just gone off and left them. We stay right there, and usually carry the bitch in upside down and get her right into a crate and let her stay there for a little while.

What is a fair stud fee?

Shauna: Probably about the going rate for a "companion" puppy.

Do you have all females?

Shauna: No we have males and females. We have eight intact boys and several older neutered ones, and several intact bitches. We always spay our bitches when we are done showing and breeding them and we neuter our dogs.

Are your dogs at stud to outside bitches?

Shauna: On a limited basis. We entertain anyone who is interested in adding the qualities of our line. We wouldn't just turn anyone away but we don't beat on anyone else's door to try to get them to breed to our dogs either. They are certainly available if the people have a good

bitch and we feel that the line would be complementary and that our dog is going to add something that they are looking for - then we would be interested.

Have you ever refused to service an outside bitch?

Shauna: We've had some people call up, "Hello, my bitch is in season. Do you have a stud dog?" That kind of thing is "No." Actually I don't hang up on them. I try to educate them a little bit. But certainly things like that.

Would you breed to a dog with a serious fault if he was outstanding in other areas?

Shauna: It would depend on what the fault is.

Jeffrey: Right. But we would consider it. It would just depend.

Is it a good idea to breed to the top winning dog, regardless of pedigree?

Shauna: No, that is not a good idea at all. It's important to breed the pedigree and the individual. The winning record does not necessarily have anything to do with the quality of the dog or its usefulness in a particular breeding. A winning record isn't important at all.

How many litters should a bitch have? How old and how young?

Jeffrey: The most any of our bitches have had are three litters and only one of them has had three litters. Age-wise ... we feel that their hips should be x-rayed and their eyes checked, so approximately two years old. We wouldn't breed anything younger than that unless we have done PennHip on them, which would allow you to check hips at a much earlier age. Maximum age would depend on the health of the bitch and how many litters she has had. I don't think we would breed an older bitch, for the first time, as late as we did Icy.

Shauna: We had shown Icy all her life, and when she got to be six-and-one-half, we said, "This is the best bitch we have and we haven't bred her. We are being pretty stupid here." So we bred her one time to Ch. Donnereign The Sovereign, a dog that John Donner had bred and who is owned by Kathy Baxter-Jensen. When we bred to him he was nine and she was six-and-one-half, so we were breeding the geriatrics, sort of. We got three outstanding boys from it including Caper, who is

Ch. Hobby Horse Nordic Ice-Capade, and his brother Ch. Hobby Horse Nordic Ice Bear, who is "Teddy," and we have both of them. The third one Gail has, he is Ch. Nordic's Hobby Horse Glacier.

We wish we hadn't waited so long to breed her - I don't think it was wise. They probably have more trouble. That may be why she only had three puppies ... because she was older. I like to breed them when they are two or three the first time and then not really past eight years old. Also, none of them needs to have much more than three litters.

"Kismet," one of our two foundation bitches, had three litters. She was quite an outstanding bitch. Her name is Ch. Nordic's Kismet O'Cynosura. She was Winners Bitch at the SCA National in 1990. Jeff showed her. She did have three litters to three different dogs and all three were quite nice. I feel the first one was the best.

Our other foundation bitch, "Silver," just had two litters. I don't like to see bitches bred four, five, six times. People need to move on.

Jeffrey: I don't like to see people repeat breedings over and over and over again because you are not doing anything to improve on what you have done or improve your line. You are just rehashing the same thing. There isn't any point in repeating breedings other than to sell puppies.

Do you help your bitches whelp?

Shauna: Yes, we are there being busy the whole time.

Jeffrey: Wringing our hands and worrying.

Shauna: We help them clean off the puppies and I hemostat the umbilical cord and cut it off and then the bitch will always chew it off a little shorter. We never leave them unattended.

Do you have to supplement feed very young puppies?

Shauna: We tube fed one puppy maybe a time or two once. Generally they have done real well and we have not had to. We would be prepared to if we thought it was necessary. We have been fortunate that our bitches are good whelpers and good mothers and have had sufficient milk and been able to handle all the puppies that they have had.

But when you did, you would



tube feed? You don't bottle?

Shauna: Tube feeding is probably better because you really know how much the puppy is getting. You can control it very carefully and it is easier and faster than bottle feeding them.

If you have to do this, do you have a certain formula you use?

Shauna: Since I have done it once and it was quite a few years ago I'm not sure if I used Esbilac but I probably did use that at the time. There are various homemade formulas that you can mix up. When we are starting to get the puppies to eat, usually about two-and-one-half weeks, we start to mess with feeding them - we can't wait. We mix up this gruel with condensed milk and baby rice and make this mush and put these little faces down to it. It is so funny to see them get their first taste of something other than mother's milk. You stick their mouth in it and they get it on their tongues and then they look up and go, "Oh, wow! This is really good stuff." (laughter) So I have this gruel that I mix up that Gail gave me the recipe for.

Do you wean the puppies yourself or do you let the bitch do it?

Shauna: Generally, we will let the bitches wean. At about five weeks, the moms say, "Okay, I'm not cleaning up after them anymore. That's your job!" By seven or eight weeks the girls have pretty much told them that they cannot nurse at all. At about five weeks they start weaning them. We never take puppies away from the bitch. That is not necessary and it is not good for the socialization of the puppy. They should be with their mother. We have it set up so the girls can get away from their puppies. They are not just trapped with them. They do get tired of having puppies swarm them all the time.

At what ages do you evaluate your puppies for pet/show quality?

Jeffrey: We start looking at them at about six weeks of age but we usually evaluate them at eight weeks.

And what are you looking for?

Jeffrey: Structure, head, tailset, pretty, and if there are any problems with them moving. In general we have found that how they are at eight weeks is how they are going to be when they grow up. It is kind of hard but we try to get them



Am/Can Ch. Nodie's Silver.

to move and see what they look like coming and going and from the side. We make our evaluation from that point.



Do you ever have to cull?

Jeffrey: No. We have never culled.

What should a show puppy sell for?

Shauna: It probably varies from area to area. Just over time they become more expensive. What we sell a show puppy for now is more than what we sold it for when we had our first litter. I don't know that there is any set price - something that is comfortable for the buyer and the seller and it should reflect the quality of the animal and the responsibility and help that the breeder will give the person.

Jeffrey: If someone buys a show puppy from us not only do they get the puppy ... they get us. It goes along with it. We will help them train the dog to the best of our ability. We will answer any questions they have no matter when they call. They are buying our expertise and our knowledge, along with the dog.

When you sell, do you normally sell on terms or cash only?

Shauna: We have done both. We will sell on terms.

How about puppies back when you sell a bitch?

Shauna: We have never sold any bitches like that. We co-own most of the show dogs that we sell mainly because we want to stay attached to them. However, we don't put a lot of stipulations. We have never sold a bitch or placed a bitch with a contract that says "you must breed her 'x' times." Most generally we don't want them bred too many times. There are a few out there that when they do get bred, if there is something nice and it works out, we might take one back but we don't have any stipulations that you must breed her and you must give us so many puppies back. That is asking a lot of people. Gail never dealt with us that way.

Do you sell pet puppies with spay/neuter agreements?

Shauna: Yes, and we use the limited registration. However, all our pet puppies are sold under spay/neuter contracts.

Jeffrey: And we also, in our contracts, require that if in any time of the dog's life the people can't keep the dog - they must return it to us. We feel like if we bring them into the world that we are essentially responsible for them their entire life.

At what age should puppies be placed in their new homes?

Shauna: Typically seven to nine weeks is a good age. Some-



Ch. Hobby Horse Nordic Kameo.

times we keep dogs longer than that if it just doesn't work out for a person to be ready. But I wouldn't want to place anything younger than seven weeks. That's too young. They still need the socialization of their mother and their littermates.

What do you feed your dogs?

Shauna: We feed them a dry product called Iams and a fresh frozen meat called Biljac. Actually, it is made here locally in Medina County and is becoming more widely available.

I'm not sure just what the availability is. It used to be just in northeastern Ohio but it is broadening. We use a combination of those two.

And how important is diet to raising this breed?

Shauna: It is very important. They need a good balanced diet. They probably don't need as much food as some breeds. They are pretty easy keepers. They can become heavy easily, especially the pet ones. We always caution people

to not overdo their feeding. They can get along on less food than you would probably expect for a dog this size.

Jeffrey: You should be feeding a premium dog food though. Not something you get off the supermarket shelves. Some of the puppy people - you tell them the food they should use, but they don't. They buy the cheaper brands. If we board them for a period of time, sometimes they come back and their coats aren't really good and they are not good eaters. They are kind of picky. However, once we start feeding them our food, they start eating well - so we make a subtle suggestion that maybe they might want to try to feed the premium food because in the long run it is not going to cost them any more because with the premium brands you don't have to feed quite as much since the dog utilizes most of the food and nutrients whereas with the supermarket brands they are just feeding a lot of filler.

What about supplements? Do you have to give them any supplements?

Shauna: Not generally. Once in a while some of the dogs that we are showing or breeding I'll give a multi-vitamin, such as a PerTab. Also, we supplement our pregnant bitches with calcium, a balanced calcium-phosphorous tablet, while they are pregnant and while they are nursing the puppies. Other than that, we don't do a lot of supplementation.



Above: Ch. Hobby Horse Nordic Karma.



How do you condition your dogs?

Shauna: We have nine acres here.

That'll do it, (laughter)

Jeffrey: We have a two-and-one-half acre backyard that they run and play in so they condition themselves.

Shauna: Yes. The free exercise is the best. They can run themselves a lot more than we can. (laughter)

Jeffrey: When we were having Tom and Andrea Glassford show Icy we kept her here. We groomed her and did all the work with the understanding that if we didn't meet their expectations or requirements that she would have to go with them - which is what we didn't want to do. At no point in time did they ever complain about her grooming or her fitness. In fact, George Ward commented to Tom and Andrea that they kept her in such good condition and shape - it wasn't them, it was us.

Jeffrey: But Tom fessed up and said that it was her owners. (laughter) So if you can keep a top-notch handler happy then you must be doing something right.

Right. Now when showing the breed, how much grooming needs to be done or should be done?

Shauna: They need a bath before every show. We always bathe before every weekend that we are going to go out, and their feet have to be trimmed up nice. They grow out all kinds of feathers that the English think are lovely but we Americans want to whack off.

Do you use scissors?

Shauna: I use shears, both thinning shears and straight shears, to trim up their feet and hocks.

What kind of shampoo and grooming products?

Jeffrey: We use Biogroom Super White. We buy it in a five gallon bucket of concentrate.

You must go through a lot of it?

Jeffrey: You got that right. (laughter) That is essentially all we use.

Shauna: It keeps their coats in good condition.

And certain brushes or combs?

Shauna: I have this black Teflon comb that I can't find anymore, it's my favorite comb. It is a wide-toothed, long, about an inch-and-one-half length, that I like to comb them out with. Mostly, I just blow dry them.

Jeffrey: The dryer is one of the most important grooming tools that you can have for this breed. In fact, we do most of our grooming with the dryer when they are blowing coat or if they just need a general brushing. We won't brush them. We use the dryer on them because it is a double motor high velocity K-9 II that parts the hair all the way down to the skin so we can get all the loose hair out.

Shauna: Then that's why we have snow in July in the backyard. (laughter)

What about their whiskers? Do you trim them?

Shauna: No.

Jeffrey: The standard says that they should be shown with whiskers.

And how do you kennel your dogs?

Shauna: They are all house dogs. They stay in the basement when we are either at work or at night. There is always at least one that sleeps up with us but the rest of them stay in the basement. We have 4 x 6 chain link runs in the basement that they stay in, and there are usually two dogs to a run so that they have company. Then we have some chain link pens, four big pens, that we let them out to just potty and then bring them back in, and then the big yard for them to run in.

Can adult males be kept in the same exercise area?

Jeffrey: As long as the females aren't in season we can run almost everybody together. At least twenty of them can be out in the yard together. Most of them get along. There are only one or two that don't get along. Actually, now we have one male split up from the others.

Shauna: He's an old neutered male but was one of the previous princes so he can't be with some of these younger intact boys.

Jeffrey: But all of our intact males can play together.

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

Shauna: They need to find a breeder who will be willing to be a mentor, as we were fortunate enough to find with Gail Mathews. She was able to give us good quality dogs and helped us learn why they were good. What features about them were maybe less than perfect that we should try to improve in our breeding. She educated us,



Ch. Hobby Horse Nordic Gem.

helped us, listened when things weren't right, encouraged us and has always been there to share everything with us. She's truly a mentor and a terrific friend. That's the ideal, if you can find somebody like her. We were fortunate to find her. We stumbled on her. We didn't set out to find a show dog, we just wanted a pet and we got a lot more than that first pet.

After finding a good breeder who can give them good dogs and will help them they have to decide that they really want to be successful. It's a lot of work and a lot of commitment. Other than our careers, Jeff is an engineer and I'm a scientist, this is what we do. The dogs are everything that we do. This entire place was built for these dogs. It was arranged to make it reasonably convenient for us to work with them. We have our house set up so that they can be in parts of it. The whole yard and exercise areas were set up for them. We spend a tremendous amount of time and money

training, grooming and going to shows. Consequently, it takes a lot of commitment. You can't just get a dog and say, "Well, okay, I've got a nice dog," and run out there and expect to win.

Jeffrey: You also should go around and talk to the different people in the breed in your area. Really talk to them about the dog. Get their opinions. Go see their dogs. If you are going to get into the breed you should really learn about the breed. See what people are doing. See what is out there. See who you can work with. However, I think you should talk to everybody.

What kennels do you consider the best today?

Shauna: Certainly Gail has some very nice dogs. Nordic is one of the very best kennels.

Jeffrey: Perhaps not as well-known as it should be.

Shauna: She's well-known, she's just not out there promoting herself as a lot of people do. I like a lot of John Donner's dogs, Donnereign. We bred Icy

to one of his dogs and looked at several of his dogs when we were choosing who we were going to breed her to. We narrowed it down to three, which were all his (laughter) and then chose one of them that he had bred. I think Kipperic, Don and Dorothy Hodges, who don't breed much anymore, but when we started out and for many years they certainly have had a lot of nice dogs. I like a lot of Frances Power's Whitecliff dogs. They are very different than ours but some of those I see I like pretty well. It's hard to just pick out. I see maybe more different individual dogs that I think that I like that dog or that I like a certain family. Elsie and Jim Shay, Elfenbein, have some nice dogs. We often like some of their dogs. We like the dogs from Canadian breeders Pat and Paul Cummins, Sancha Samoyed. And the dogs of the English Kennel, Anney, Margaret Wilcock and Robin Newhouse. The Lensen's "My Way" dogs are nice too, along with the Trojans' "Mithril" dogs. There are many good kennels out there, too many to list.

Where are the majority of the kennels? Are they all over the country or is there an area that is more prominent than others?

Jeffrey: The Wisconsin area, at one time, had probably the most but a lot of them are getting older. We are not that familiar with what is out on the West Coast.

Shauna: There are quite a few breeders out there. We have been out there twice to shows. There aren't a lot of breeders right here in our area. They have decreased in the last few years. Bob and Pat Hritz were here, not far away, when we first started - they have since retired. We had a lot of good competition with them and their daughter Kathy for a good many years. Bob and Pat have moved to Florida now.

Again, advice for breeders just starting out. Would you recommend that they join a local breed club, a national breed club or an all breed club?

Shauna: They should join the national club certainly. Our club has an outstanding bulletin, and The Samoyed Quarterly. These are two very nice journals that come out quarterly. It is important for people to get those to see what people are doing,



Drum.

They have good articles and lots of pictures. I love to read everybody's ad. I read every single ad.

Jeffrey: If there is a local breed club, they should join that too just to get to know everybody in the area. Because if you know everybody in your area and you get together the competition is going to be more fun.

If there is a local all breed club it would not hurt to join to learn about different breeds and learn how shows are put together. We've been members of the Medina Kennel Club for many years, and we have been show chairmen for both the winter and summer shows, and obedience chairmen. We have done quite a bit on that end putting shows together. It's good to get into that area to see what clubs go through to put a show on for all of the exhibitors. What it takes to put a show together. It's quite a bit of work to make sure that it all goes off well. We are also members of the Western Reserve Kennel Club.

Shauna: We feel that it is important to give something back. If everybody just wanted to go to a show and nobody put forth the effort to put one on - before long there wouldn't be any shows to go to. It's tremen-

dous work to put on a show and run a club. We've been all kinds of officers, committee heads, assistant show chairmen, show chairmen, obedience chairmen for many years. It's important for people to give something back to the sport. Also, it is worthwhile. You get to meet a lot of other people in other breeds. You'll learn more about your breed by learning about other breeds just in seeing differences and similarities. It is good for people to join all three of the types of clubs.

Do you feel that the parent club is doing enough to educate judges and new breeders?

Shauna: They are making more and more effort.

Jeffrey: The more recent seminars that they have had at the Nationals have been very good. I was one of the key resource people at the 1997 National and attended the seminar where they talked to the judges about the dogs. I thought the information they gave them was very good. They are putting forth very good effort to educate the judges. More needs to be done on educating breeders. There needs to be more education of the fancy as a whole about the breed because there are a lot of people that

have gotten into Sammys and become instant experts. They finish that first champion and think they know it all. A lot more needs to be done in that area.

Is there an AKC video in this breed?

Shauna: Yes.

Is it a good one?

Shauna: It's quite nice.

What about adequate books or magazines? You mentioned a couple before.

Shauna: There are quite a few good books about Sammys. Several of them published by Hofflin. We have a shelf in the library of Sammy books.

Jeffrey: Probably some of the more important books would be the Goodrich pedigree books that have pictures of the old dogs and, if you can find them, some of the old English pedigree books that have pictures of

the old dogs just to see what Sammys looked like when the standard was written. It would be a revelation to many to see what type is. Anybody who is getting in the breed, or even people who have been in the breed five to ten years, should search out those books and look at the pictures and see what the standard was based on, then look at their dogs and see whether they have made an improvement or taken steps backward.

Are there changes from the older pictures to your dogs?

Jeffrey: I would say the major difference is the quality of the grooming.

Shauna: Yes. You can see very similar heads in the dogs that we have today and many of the very early English dogs that were the basis for our specific kennels, Hobby Horse and Nordic. Type is one thing we try to maintain and if you look at the pictures you'll see that. The grooming of them is a major difference. The old pictures looked like the dogs never had a bath in their life and if they did, they had no dryers so that looks a lot different.

Jeffrey: But just looking at the structure of the dog and the head you should be able to tell

what they should look like from those old pictures and compare it to what you see nowadays.

Shauna: Some people are maintaining it – and some people aren't.

How long have you lived here in your present location?

Shauna: We've lived here almost six years.

And where did you move from?

Shauna: We lived in Clinton, Ohio, a small town nearby.

Were you both raised here?

Jeffrey: We are both originally from Indiana. I'm from Evansville and Shauna is from Columbus. We are both Hoosiers.

May we ask how old you are?

Shauna: Oh, we are forty-something. (laughter) We'll be 43 this year and we have been married twenty years.

And, Shauna, you said you were a scientist. Do you work locally?

Shauna: I work in Cleveland at a company called Amer-sham Pharmacia Biotech. I'm a biochemist. I have a PhD in biochemistry. I work at a company that develops enzymes and reagents for genetic research and DNA sequencing.

Where were you educated?

Shauna: We both did our undergraduate degree at Purdue, that's where we met in the band.

What did you play?

Shauna: I played the saxophone and Jeff played the French horn. Jeff got his masters degree in mechanical engineering at the University of Akron and I got my PhD there and did post-doctoral work at Ohio State. I finally got a job after many years – Jeff never thought it would happen. I have been working for ten years.

And, Jeff, you are an engineer?

Jeffrey: Yes. I work for Babcock and Wilcox. I've been there 21 years. B&W makes steam generating equipment for both industrial and utility applications.

Are they located in Cleveland also?

Jeffrey: They are located in Barberton, about five miles from here. So we live close to my work.

Are there any stories about some of your favorite Sammies that you would like to share with us?

Shauna: In 1987 we went to our first National. I showed Soryk and Echo in Brace obedience, which turned out to be



Ch. Noric Raisa O'Hobby Horse.

quite an interesting and comical scene. They had just mowed the grounds, there in New Hampshire, but had left this really long grass where they had cut it. The whole time we are heeling around, Soryk, who is quite a ham and has always played the crowd his entire life, is picking up pieces of grass and throwing it as we heel around the ring. The only reason he stayed close to me was because he was attached to Echo with the brace coupler. On the stand for examination, the judge bent over to examine them and Soryk kissed him on the face. The judge stood up and said, "He's a smart dog. He gets an extra point for that." (laughter) Then on the recall I stood there and he gave me the signal to call them – I called them and they came like they were shot out of a cannon. When they got to me, Echo, being the wonderful obedience dog that she is, planted herself right in front of me and stopped. Soryk, being the wild man that he is, flung around her and around me and

ended up wrapped around my legs with the brace coupler and stood there going "woo-woo" to the crowd, who are now on the ground laughing themselves silly! Jeff was making a videotape and the tape bounced up and down because he's laughing so hard. Soryk has always been quite ham.

One night, at our old house,

he scared us to death. We were lying in bed in the middle of the night. There was a light on in the kitchen – we hadn't left a light on in the kitchen. Then the light went off and then it came back on. I'm like, "Oh my God. There's somebody in there!" Jeff and I crept out to the kitchen and there was Soryk. We had one of those towels that ties to the handle of the refrigerator – Soryk was taking hold of the towel, opening the refrigerator door and letting it shut and opening it again. I don't think he ate anything out of the refrigerator. He was just having a good time.

He would also go in the bathroom and turn the water on in the tub and let it run. He's quite a ham.

Also, we have one dog who is an artist. His work actually hangs in an art gallery. (laughter)

You're kidding.

Shauna: There is some of it up behind you. He does "paw art," his name is Hobby Horse's Sea Biscuit. He is owned by a lady named Ruth Westlake in Bethany, West Virginia. As a Christmas gift to us, she had "Biscuit" do paw art. She found non-toxic finger paints which she dips his feet in, then he



Ch. Nordic's Kealani.

walks around on paper and makes paw art. She works at Bethany College and in their art gallery hangs some of Biscuit's work. (laughter)

How have the dogs affected your lifestyle?

Jeffrey: Our vacations are made up of going to dog shows.

Shauna: Our entire house is built for them. This living room and library are where they are generally not allowed and the great room with the leather sectional is where they are allowed. With the vinyl floor and the leather they don't get hair stuck to everything. You just pick it up or vacuum it. They have affected us tremendously just in how we live and they have given us a lot of good friends, all over the country, that we wouldn't have met. They have given us a reason and an opportunity to travel. We show from the East Coast, south and the West Coast. We have gone out to Washington State twice and one of the Canadian Nationals on Vancouver island. We have gotten to do a lot of traveling - with them and because of them.

What about drawbacks?

Shauna: It makes it harder to travel without them because it is hard to get anybody to take care of them, especially with as many as we have. We have so many that it is difficult to leave them. Sometimes my parents will take care of them or we'll board some of the boys and my folks will take care of the rest of them. We also have a couple of friends who sometimes take care of them for a weekend so we can go somewhere. It's a lot of work. They behave pretty well for us but it is difficult for other people to keep them all straight. I've come up with a good method. I paint their initial on their head with fingernail polish and I color coordinate the ones that can be together and ones who get some kind of medication or special food or whatever, so that when somebody does take care of them it is easier for them to identify which one is which.

Your secret code. (laughter)

Shauna: Yes.

Has it all been worth it?

Shauna: I think so. We've enjoyed it a lot. We enjoy the dogs. They are tremendous. Their personalities are just unbelievable. We enjoy every single one of them. We enjoy all the

people that we have become friends with. It has been terrific.

Do you have other hobbies, or do they basically take all your time?

Shauna: They are most of it. I play the piano. They are the biggest part of our hobbies. Now we also have Alpacas that we breed - we haven't really shown them yet but I think we will a little bit. The Alpaca showing is not nearly as sophisticated as dogs certainly, but I would like to do that a little bit. They are fun little animals.

How many do you have?

Shauna: We have five right now. Four females and a young male.

Jeffrey: He's just a baby. He's two months old.

How did you get involved with Alpacas?

Jeffrey: We were looking for something else to do as an investment to produce income. They are more of an investment and income producers.

Shauna: They are a livestock investment. We wanted something else that we could do here on our farm. We had two horses when we moved here, but they both have died. They were quite old. One was almost 35 and the other one was 23. Our pasture and barn were empty, and it was sort of like how we stumbled upon Gail. We stumbled upon some people at the Medina County Fair that were showing them, raising them, and using them as an investment.

Jeffrey: We talked to them for a while, and thought it was a good idea to get involved in - so we did.

Great. Is there anything we haven't covered or any soapboxes that you have?

Shauna: We've been on our soapboxes several times here. I believe we have covered things that we definitely wanted to say. People just need to be careful in their breeding and really try to breed to the standard and not just produce something because it is something they happen to have and not tout it as correct or the best. Really read the standard and make a big effort to understand the standard and produce animals that fit that standard and don't try to mold the standard into what they think. It is already written down. Either choose to breed to it or go get a breed that fits more nearly what you want. There are almost 400 breeds in the

world. Surely there is something that will fit what you want.

One thing I don't believe I asked you is what is the ideal temperament?

Shauna: They should be friendly. Caper has a tremendous temperament. He is quite dominant actually, and we select for that in our boys. Most of our boys are feisty. We want something that is outgoing, confident, and friendly. Not all of them are quite as exuberant as the three that happened to be up here when you arrived. They should be intelligent, alert and sweet. They have a sweet personality. They are often different out in public versus at home with just us. A lot of them, especially the more dominant ones, when they are alone with us at night and it is their turn to sleep up, let their hair down and are different from when they are with the pack or out amongst other people.

What about with children?

Shauna: Terrific! We don't have any children and ours aren't around children a lot but most of ours think kids are the greatest thing in the world when they come across them.

Jeffrey: At the shows if people come up with kids the dogs all love to be petted by them.

Shauna: And they are fascinated by babies. It always scares me when somebody rolls their stroller up under your

dog's nose, but all of ours have always just said, "Oh. Hi." (laughter) However, I would be afraid. I wouldn't do that if I was a parent. Fortunately, all the Sammies have good temperaments and they seem to love kids.

I can't thank you enough. It has been a wonderful way for me to spend the evening. I appreciate all the information you have shared and I know all our readers will enjoy it.

Shauna: Thank you. We have enjoyed it, too.

Jeffrey: Thank you. But, you didn't ask about our most fun wins.

Oh, tell me about them.

Jeffrey: The first one was when Kismet won the National in Birmingham in 1990. I handled her. There were 145 bitches total entry. We knew the judge would like her because he had put her up before. She only needed a point to finish. When we knew he was judging we held her out the whole summer. I made a point to have her ready, conditioned, and groomed perfectly for the National - because she was going to win it. I decided six months in advance that that was our goal - to go Winners Bitch at the National.

We got there and walked into the Open Bitch ring. As they were writing down everybody's numbers I looked down



Krimson.

at Kismet. She was just standing there looking at me with her eyes bright and her ears up. She was very animated. I asked her if we were going to win today. She looked at me, her eyes just sparkled, and she laughed at me and wagged her tail and said, "Of course we are going to win today."

Through the whole Open class of 40 or 50 bitches she did not take a wrong step. Every time she would stack herself perfectly. She did not quit baiting or anything. The judge, Sam Pizzino, gave her the Open class and her daughter "Raisa" got third in the Open class. However, I knew it wasn't done yet because we still had all the others in for winners. At that Specialty it was strange because after each class win they would take a picture of the winner. We had to go get our picture taken before going back in for Winners Bitch.

So we go in for Winners and she did not quit. After being in the whole Open class with no break, she went straight into Winners class. She didn't take a wrong step, didn't quit showing. She won that. When I walked out of the ring - we were in an air conditioned civic arena - my jacket was soaking wet because I had worked so hard. That was a great win.

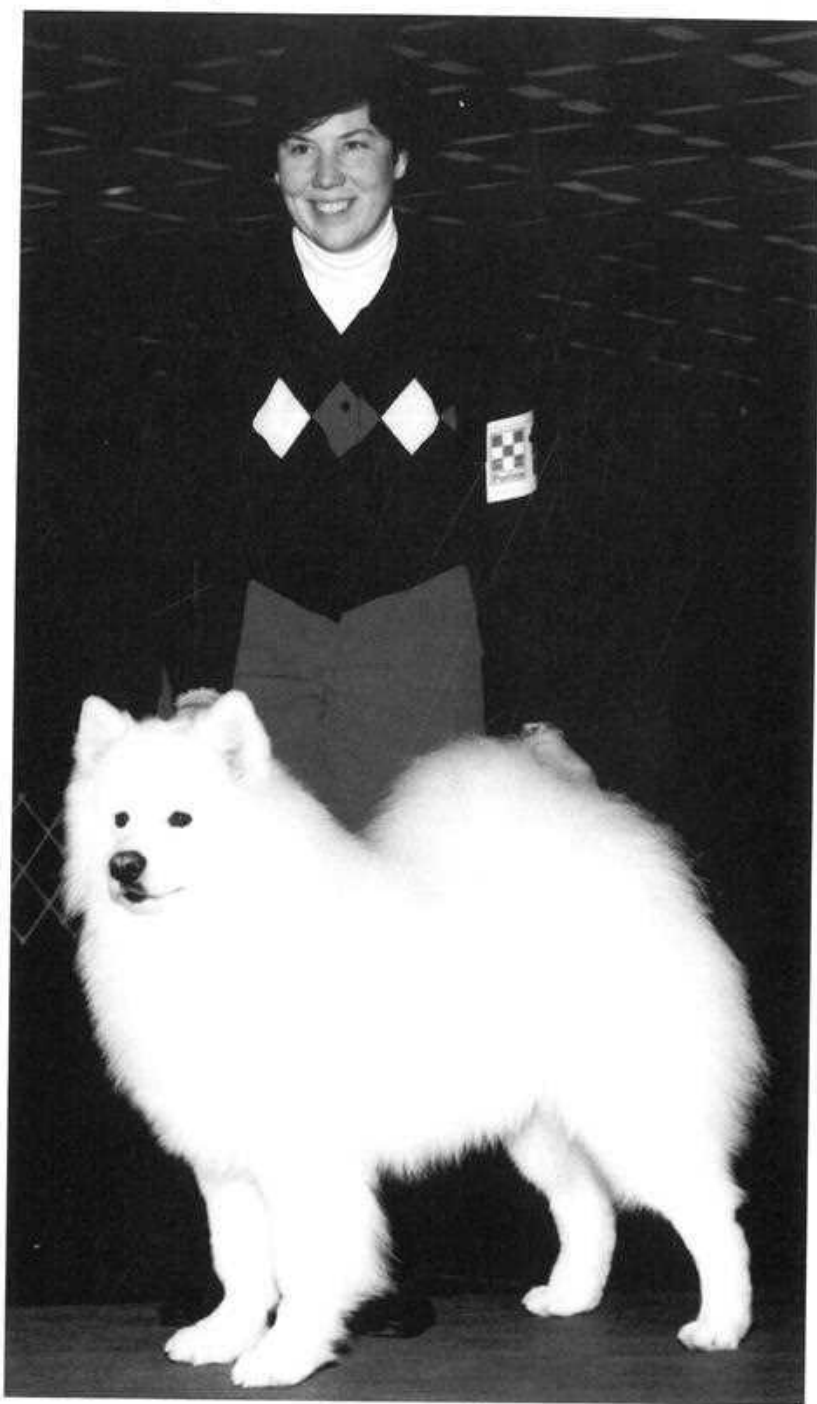
The second win was with Icy, Kismet's daughter. She was seven-and-one-half years old when we went to the Potomac Specialty in Virginia. The judge was Annie Rogers Clark. We showed her in the Veterans class. I knew Annie would like her because we had her shown three previous times to Annie throughout her career. We only showed Icy to Annie four times and she'd given her Breed every time so far. The first time she gave her Breed was when she was not quite two years old. She gave her Breed from the classes for a five-point major over the number one bitch in the country - the top winning bitch of all time at that time. She won a Group II that day.

We took her to the specialty as a Veteran, knowing that Annie liked bitches. She was the only one in the Veteran Bitch class so we won that of course. In Breed, she sorted through all the dogs and made her cut. Then she brought the bitches in, sorted through, and kept the ones that she liked. In the show

there happened to be the current number one and the top winning bitch of all time in the ring against us. After Annie had made her cut and was sorting through the bitches to place them in the order that she liked them, she came back to get Icy and had us move down and back. Then she came up and put Icy behind the bitch who was number one at the time. She sent the two of us around the ring, judging on side gait. After we got back to our place in line she put me in front, then immediately flipped all the bitches that she had left in the ring so I ended up at the back of the line. She sent the bitches around and stopped them. She brought the dogs in the order she liked them.

At this point, people outside the ring didn't know what she was doing. I had it in my mind that she had the bitch that she liked best at the end of the bitches, which was Icy, and the dog that she liked the best at the front of the line, so she had them together. She looked at everybody. Icy, of course, stood there and showed great! A friend of mine had given me a piece of hot dog which Icy loved for some reason, so she was really on that day and showing. Annie pulled her Winners Dog and Winners Bitch out and looked at them, then put them back in line and sent everybody around for the last go-around. I watched her the whole time and knew exactly who she was going to point to - she walked down the line and gave Icy Best of Breed.

Shauna: And she said, "My Veteran Bitch is Best of Breed." Because the whole big line was moving around it was kind of



Hobby Horse Nordic Starbuck.

hard to tell, and of course everybody expected the other bitch to win because she was the number one bitch at the time. The whole ringside was tittering about what had happened. You could hear everybody chattering away. That was fun!

Jeffrey: And we told her that we didn't know if she remembered or not but this was the bitch that years ago she put up Breed from the classes and that she always put her up

whenever she saw her. She said, "Oh, yes. How could I forget a face like that?" Every time she put her up she always remembered her. And each of the four times it was a few years apart.

They do have wonderful faces.

Shauna: Wonderful.

Well, thank you again.

Shauna and Jeffrey: Thank you. •