

Western **KENNELWORLD**

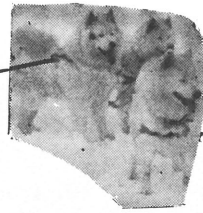
FEBRUARY

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1971



Samoyeds



Greetings to Sammy lovers everywhere for this New Year 1971.

I know you will join me in welcoming the great news that came to me this morning, January 13, 1971, —from none other than Bruce Burket, Publisher of Western Kennel World—the Sammies' Friend.

The message—"Surprise! We are rollin' again—here is the proof." It is a copy of the lovely January 1971 issue of Western Kennel World!

The cover page—a delightful winter scene, with a Sam whose companionship was the reason that Mrs. Fred (Iva) Rule is with us today—for Ch. Prince Artica of Mesen (sorrowfully no longer with them) was responsible for saving Iva's life.

It was through the efforts of friends that Bruce was able to start off for this New Year. But now, folks, we are going to need all of your help to keep the Sams again at the top.

I do appreciate your faith in me that has appointed me to resume editorship of our future Sam pages.

Do let us begin now with the February issue.

Bruce says the advertising rates will be the same as before. And of course we shall want news, stories and pictures. I shall be awaiting your letters—so here we go again—won't YOU be with us?

We are indebted to Bruce, Publisher, and Helen 2nd, editor of Western Kennel World, and the following friends and owners of Sams for this break: Dan and LaVera Morgan, Fred and Iva Rule, Harold and Doris McLaughlin, Charles and Evelyn James, Fran; and Betty Downs, and Ed and Emmaline Altamirano for sponsoring this January issue. Out thanks to All of you!

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We hope for a Happy New Year for all of you.

"From the Kennels"

This is the title of a new 12 page monthly paper published in Coburg, Oregon. Thanks to Dan Morgan for the December copy which contains many items of interest for dog folks. The first such item concerns "Dogs that won't gain weight." "You'll frequently find that a dog that will not put on flesh is a continual drinker of water. This is sometimes a nervous habit picked up because of boredom.

"If your veterinarians cannot diagnose any ill, try limiting the dog's intake of water. Give him what you know is adequate, not depriving him to the extent that he will dehydrate or suffer because of hot weather, but in particular keep water away from him for about 4 hours after he is fed. It helps too, to crate him or confine him in quarters where he can't run and pace for this period. Hopefully you'll find his stools are firmer and less in quantity, and he'll soon begin to flourish."

There's more, folks—but I must meet the deadline.

Do please write me—let's go ahead and pull with that Sammy team. We NEED you!

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THE SAMOYEDE DOG OF THE AGES

By Catherine S. Quereaux &
Vera Lawrence

"The reindeer shepherd, sledge dog and household companion. Arctic suns and snows have bleached his harsh standoff coat, and tipped the hairs with an icy sheen. Constant companionship with man through the years has given him an almost uncanny "human" understanding - and the generations of guarding the reindeer herds, has developed through the ages in the breed a disposition unique in the canine world.

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In presenting the history of the Samoyede in America, a story not heretofore published anywhere in its entirety, we wish to thank the Western Kennel World for opening its pages for these articles (first published in January 1942 WKW). The series in the Western Kennel World will cover the history of the breed from late 1906 through the year 1920. The years from 1920 on will be presented in the Bulletin of the Samoyede Club of America, with special articles on the breed from its earliest days, in various sections. Every statement made as fact will be backed by proof from authentic sources.

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True it is, that of the very early history, there may be errors, and in the desire for absolute accuracy, we welcome every criticism, and every small detail believed inaccurate will be checked and rechecked, if only the person discovering such believed inaccuracy will advise us of it and of their source of information. We wish absolute accuracy and that these articles will stand for all time as the standard history of the breed here. To this end we have used the carefully checked files of the Samoyede Club of America, which collection of data is believed to be the world's largest single source of information on the breed.

Many of our early dogs are but legend today. Some of our greatest are almost legend, and we therefore wished that the record be written while there are some earlier breeders available to give us the benefit of their knowledge and recollection. For research into the early days has not been without its dismays and queries. Were we to believe everything we have seen in print, the early Samoyede dams were doughty dogs, who bore litters at monthly or bi-monthly intervals. We are constrained, however, to believe some human blundered in recording dates.

We have found that not a few of the earlier Samoyede names came from the Russian and were also known in Hebrew, with this distinction, that a male name of Hebrew when adapted from the Russian and given to a Samoyede was usually given to a dog of the opposite sex, and when female, became a male name in Russian. We have at least three names where this is shown true from Biblical references to Hebrew persons of similar names.

In setting forth this history, we are not entering into any discussion of the quality of the dogs - where the descendants of a given dog have been numerous, they have had a marked effect, for good or bad on the breed. We are setting forth what has occurred, and are not passing upon its good or ill effects. Except in rare cases, no comments will be made on individual dogs, save those necessary to set for their place in our history. Show wins will not be used as denoting quality but rather as denoting the rate of popularizing the breed through such showings.

In the early days, we have found the progeny of dogs, the registration of whom we have been unable to find. (In England today, as late as 1937, we found dogs registered where either sire or dam was marked as having no record of reg-

istration.) We have found in our research that by a single breeding, one import carries on today, and that many of the present day descendants of the hitherto unknown and unsung litter sister of one of our best known earlier dams.

The honor for introducing the Samoyede into America goes to the Princess de Montyglyon. If half of the stories told of this lady are true, colorful was she, a pre-World War lady living in Victorian days, but with the Victorian charm of manner. Born to the purple, she is best described by Freeman Lloyd as "born a countess (Belgian) - a duchess by marriage, mother of a marquis and a hereditary princess of the Holy Roman Empire. She had become the wife of a famous lion tamer, Captain Jack Bonavit, to wit. In her heydey the princess was looked upon as one of the greatest beauties of her sex."

World traveler, even in America, it is evident she had the roving foot. We find her at Tappan, N.Y.; Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y.; Freehold, N. J.; Tampa, Florida, and other places. We find her showing Collies and Chow Chows as well, and feeling keenly show wins or losses of her beloved pets, to such an extent that following a show defeat about 1908, she addressed a letter to Field and Fancy which carried the query 'who colored Chow Chino?'. Another exhibitor promptly took up the gauntlet so flung, and famous lawyers battled on theories of libel and slander through the hidghest courts of New York state (194 N.Y. 309).

These were the days when "stare decisis" was strongly entrenched and the Princess won. What the story would have been today, or that today her case would have reached the Court of Appeals, is hard to decide. But it all adds to the color of the glamorous lady who first brought the Samoyede here. We find Princess Montyglyon averse to the thought of death, and having her dogs mounted in lifelike position after death and placed all around her living quarters, sometimes to the shock of unwarned visitors.

A chapter all to itself could be devoted to Moustan, A.K.C. 102,896, first Samoyede to be registered, in December 1906 in the United States. Prior to Princess Montyglyon's coming to America she was internationally known as an exhibitor of Samoyedes, and in the great capitals of Europe, and her dogs were brought to America when she came here. We believe the story of her acquisition of Moustan is best told

by Freeman Lloyd in the American Kennel Gazette of April, 1935, and here verbatim, the story as he gives it.

"I have asked for and listened to thousands of stories regarding famous dogs, but never have I heard a more interesting one than that about Moustan, the Samoyede, while sitting on the lawn at Tappan, New York.

"And when did you get the International Champion Moustan, the Samoyede; I beg pardon the Siberian?"

"The Princess always described these Samoyedes as Siberian dogs."

"Oh, I got him in Russia, and I'll never forget how! I was exhibiting my Collies and Chows at the great St. Petersburg show, and I saw and admired Moustan as he lay on his bench. From the catalogue I learned he was the property of the Grand Duke Nicholas, an acquaintance of mine! So I kept my eyes open for the appearance of his royal highness. I couldn't help seeing him, could I? He is a tall man among men.

"In due course the Duke and his friends arrived. I rushed over to Moustan's bench and began to pet the lovely creature. While seemingly abstractedly oblivious to all other worldly matters, an official rather rudely ordered me to stand aside from the bench; the Grand Duke had arrived!

"Apologetically, I curtsied. Our eyes met; his revealed an instant recognition.

"Madam la Princess! What on earth are you doing here?"

"Exhibiting my Collies. I love them, but I seem to have lost my heart to this strange white dog though I don't even know its breed.

"He is a Siberian and belongs to me.

"Then I shall steal him and take him back to Belgium. I shall steal him!

"Madame! Remember you are in Russia.

"And the Duke passed on.

"But the stern visage of great people do not always reveal the inward thoughts of men while thousands of other are looking on. There was a certain glint in the Nicholas eye that recognized that dog-thieving might not be one of my caprices. So I kept on making a fuss over Moustan, which was made a Russian champion.

"And so arrived Saturday night. I had not been long in my hotel when the arrival of a body of gentlemen was announced. They requested to be admitted to my apartment; their visit was personal. They

had come by command of the Grand Duke Nicholas!

"In less than a few moments, as it seemed, there stood a bevy of uniformed gentlemen; and in the forefront, the admired Moustan, MY Moustan, decorated with costly ribbons and rosettes! In the great silver goblet the dog had won was the Duke's personal card that bore the words in French: 'I give thee Moustan; Thou shalt not steal.'

"We dispute with Mr. Lloyd that Moustan was ever an American champion. We admit that the Princess occasionally used the title CH. when mentioning him in American show catalogues, the 1907 Westminster catalogue being a notable example, wherein Ch. de Witte of Argenteau was entered and stated to be by Ch. Moustan of Argenteau ex Sora of Argenteau (and de Witte was not officially announced as a champion until November 1907) and where in the same catalogue Northern Princess was likewise shown as the daughter of Ch. Moustan of Argenteau ex Petchora of Argenteau.

"That Moustan was a Russian champion is generally accepted. But the American Kennel Club has no record of many champions listed long prior to 1906, and despite the fact that their official recognition is speedily given to de Witte and to the unregistered Siberia of Argenteau.

"We further doubt that he was champion on two grounds, lack of competition, and second, the reputed age of Moustan. Assuming for the sake of argument, without conceding its truth, the popular legend that Moustan was 'born on a Dr. Nansen expedition', he must have been born at the latest prior to June 1896, when the expedition returned to Europe. This would have made him well over ten when first shown here, and being shown, as our gallant breed was then, mostly in miscellaneous groups, there was little, if any, opportunity for the great ancestor of so many of our dogs to have secured an American title. We seriously doubt that he did, but to the end that all available information may be secured, we have bothered show giving clubs all over the country in beseeching them to check their old records, many in dusty tomes not pulled out for years and have as yet found no further record.

"We have spoken of Moustan's birth 'on a Dr. Nansen expedition' as possibly a myth for the reason that 'Farthest North' sets forth the following definite facts concerning Nansen's dogs. Moustan's name

nowhere appears. Nansen and Johansen left Sussi and six pups of a litter whelped by Kvik on July 31, 1894 (twelve and a half years before Moustan's registration) to return on the Fram, Kvik having perished on the sled journey. Aboard the Fram homeward bound were apparently 20 dogs and pups (this estimate is made after checking the numbers of puppies whelped en route by Sussi, Skvint, Kara and an unnamed daughter of Sussi, and their reported disposal). Of this 20 there were 11 with unknown names. Thirteen of this approximate 20 were born aboard during 1895-6. If Moustan were by chance one of the unnamed puppies, he was at least ten to eleven years of age when registered in America.

"So here we have but legend, and where expeditions, wars and the gifts of royalty are concerned, there is always legend. We have no definite facts to set forth, but welcome any further information on this source.

"And so, to paraphrase the Grand Duke, to the end that all that is known may be thine, we give thee Merci d'Argenteau, the Princess de Montyglyon, who first brought the Samoyede to America, and Moustan, the first Samoyede to be registered in the United States, the sire of de Witte of Argenteau, the first Samoyede to attain a championship here, as the beginning of our American history."

Next month the story of Moustan. —V.L.

THE AKITA

NATIONAL DOG OF JAPAN

By Nicholas Rhoden

5851 Braun St., Oakland, Calif. 94605

The Akitas in Northern California welcome the Western Kennel World's recent debut and the opportunity this publication will afford our regional dog fanciers to become better acquainted with dog news in the Pacific States. An opportunity to introduce the magnificent Akita, national dog of Japan, is also greatly appreciated.

It is surprising how many dog fanciers have never seen an Akita, and even more surprising that many have never even heard of the breed. Although comparatively rare in this country, California claims almost half of the registered Akitas. Southern California has been known as Akita dog-patch of America since the breed was introduced by U. S. servicemen returning from post-war occupation duty in Japan. In 1956 the Akita Club of America was established and has

served ever since as the National Parent Breed Club and only registering body in the U.S.

A few scattered Akita owners in the San Francisco bay region became aware of each other a couple of years ago, and little by little the idea of forming a Northern California Akita club was born. In March, 1970, a group of Akita devotees came together and founded the Royal Akita Club, and it was granted a charter as a chapter of the Akita Club of America. That small membership of 37 adults, 4 juniors and 40 Akitas introduced the Akita to thousands of visitors at the 3rd Annual Cherry Blossom Festival in San Francisco last April with an impressive exhibit on the Plaza of the Japanese Cultural Center. On the last day some 40,000 spectators applauded the Akita brigade who marched their owners up and down the hills in the colorful parade. The Akita has been invited to exhibit again this year in that exciting event.

Akitas have been appearing with regularity in Bay Area matches and AKC shows for the past year - up to a dozen strong, although in prior years two or three Akitas were frequent entries. While awaiting AKC official recognition, the Akita has been attracting increasing attention and admiration by its competition in the Miscellaneous Class. It is hoped that readers of this article who are unacquainted with the breed will make a point of seeking out the Miscellaneous Class at forthcoming shows and meet this remarkable dog. Also, the Royal Akita Club's 2nd Annual All-Akita Match is scheduled in the coming fall, and dog lovers will have a fine chance to see a large gathering of

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