

Understanding the Working Dog Front

Mike Smith
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THE function and structure of a working dog front is probably the least understood, and most often neglected, area in the breeding programs of the Samoyed fancier today. Historically, the Samoyed is considered a natural breed and should be physically capable of hunting for game. In more recent times, he has been used as a herding dog, and as a sled dog. Whether you consider the Samoyed a hunting dog, a herding dog, or a hauling dog makes very little difference when considering his correct structure. All three functions call for a dog with speed, power, acceleration and endurance.

To understand the need for a good working dog front, it is first necessary to have an understanding of how a dog propels himself. A dog generates the majority of his speed and power from his hind legs. The thrust that is imparted by the hind legs is dependent on the leg's length when fully extended compared to the leg's length when contracted to the minimum while in stride. This calls for acute angulation, particularly of the upper and lower thigh sections. This is why the Samoyed Standard calls for a 45-degree angle at the stifle.

This thrust generated by the rear assembly is propelled through the loin, back and withers to the front assembly. IF the front shoulders are set correctly at a 45-degree angle, the shock passes through them with a minimum effort and is absorbed by the muscles. If the front shoulders, however, are not correctly set, the dog's front pads will strike the ground before momentum has been expended. The impact of the pads striking the ground will transmit shock to the front assemblage, causing the withers and blade to raise and fall dramatically. The dog with a more vertical front shoulder will have to compensate, either by cutting down on his rear drive, thus losing both speed and power, or pound in the front as his pads strike the ground, causing him to tire more readily and cutting down on his endurance.

The front assemblage of the dog

is made up of the shoulder blade, the upper arm, the forearm, the pasterns and the paws. The neck and the anterior section of the rib cage also play an intricate part in the functioning of a dog's front. The front's functions include: providing the dog body support, generating some power, helping to propel on turns, absorbing shock and helping the dog maintain the equilibrium that is continually being disturbed by the power thrust of his rear assembly.

What is a good working dog front? The foundation for a good front is a shoulder blade set at 45 degrees. The 45-degree set allows for a longer and wider blade than on the more vertical shoulder set. The larger blade face provides more room for longer and wider muscles. The 45-degree blade lies alongside the thoracic frame or rib cage. It moves in a longer arc than the more vertical blade. Its movement is applied parallel to the line of locomotion, and provides over two times more lift than the more vertical 60-degree blade. While the more common 60-degree shoulder blade gives a more vertical, choppy forward motion, expending as much energy going up and down as forward, the 45-degree blade allows for a longer-reaching, smoother, ground-covering stride. It allows the pad to hit the ground where momentum expends itself.

The upper arm should join the shoulder blade at a 90-degree angle and should be the same length as the shoulder blade. A good working dog front calls for a long upper arm. This increases the length of the tricep muscles and those activating the forearm. The longer upper arm increases the arc of travel and therefore increases the difference between the legs' extended and contracted lengths. This increases the front assembly's ability to lift, to absorb shock, and to generate power.

The forearm should join the upper arm at a 135-degree angle. The pasterns joint the forearm and should have a 10- to 15-degree slope. A moving dog's foot strikes the ground on his heel and the shock of that concussion goes directly into the bones of the pastern. For this reason, the pastern

must bend and not be rigid. Sloping pasterns will help prevent the front from knuckling over, help absorb the shock from the concussion of the front pad striking the ground and provide for greater lift by allowing the bones below the pasterns to enter into the foreleg action.

The neck and rib carriage also play an important part in the mechanics of a working dog's front. All the muscles which draw the front legs forward depend on the neck for base support. The cervical ligament controls the position of the head and is the basic strength to the forward action of the front legs. The shoulder blade lies flat against the anterior section of the rib cage. The first four or five ribs should not have as much spring or curve as the remainder and should be definitely flat-sided to allow maximum freedom to the actions of the shoulder blade.

WHEN breeding for a good working dog front, and for a good moving dog in general, it is important to keep in mind that the shoulder blade, the upper arm, and the thigh or femur are all approximately the same length in a given dog. If you remember, a 45-degree set of the shoulder blade allows for the longest and widest possible blade, that's a good start. So in breeding for a correct shoulder, you also, as a bonus, get a longer upper arm and a longer thigh, a thigh which by its own length necessitates that the hock be short.

In conclusion, when appraising a Samoyed, always keep in mind that it is a working dog, and the 45-degree shoulder layback and the 45-degree bend in the stifle are not something extra ... they are inherent to Samoyed type. •

Sportsmanship, or Getting Ahead by Getting Along

*Don and Dot Hodges
Poynette, Wisconsin*

WE refer to our hobby as "the sport of dogs," but all too frequently it might be better described as the "spat" of dogs. I recently saw a bumper sticker on a dog show vehicle which said, "The more I see of people, the better I like my dog." This point of view suggests that it might be the people in the sport, rather than the dogs, who are prone to "spats." Not to suggest, of course, that EVERYONE is "chippy," as they say in hockey, but there are more than enough such people. Any competitive endeavor requires a strong personality to be successful and dog fanciers must have a little of the prima donna in them in order to give a public performance in the ring. However, while strength of character and a degree of self-interest are necessary to success, so are tolerance and civility! As with any society (and the dog fancy is a mini society), there are certain rules and conventions tacitly agreed upon to maintain the fabric of that society without which it would degenerate into anarchy. For a hobby, that wouldn't be much fun.

Once embarked on this sport, there are several arenas in which one can satisfy the competitive urge. The obvious one is to train and show one's dog. Any discussion of sportsmanship in dogs starts with behavior in and around the ring. Emotions are high and elation and disappointment are keenly felt. Nevertheless, those tacitly agreed upon conventions call for congratulations to the winners and, more importantly, acceptance of your loss with grace. It might be inserted at this point that winning gracefully is as important as losing gracefully. The only thing that galls a person more than a poor loser is a poor winner! Salt, figuratively speaking, serves better to flavor our relationships than to salve the emotional wounds of our competitors. These things are often very difficult, but they are the hallmark of the true sportsman. If you can't do them, you will be perennially distressed, and over time, your friends

will melt away. There is also a positive aspect to sportsmanlike behavior that many people overlook. The friends you make as a result can help you win! They can and do offer such help as grooming, training and handling tips, equipment hauling, dog holding, etc. But beyond that, they provide the ringside support which can boost your morale in the ring and influence the judge in a close decision.

Breeding is a separate area of competition with its own opportunities for good or poor sportsmanship. They are usually less public but no less important to our perception of a person as a sportsman. Breeders, too, must display the capacity to applaud the success of others. There is plenty of room for all of us to express ourselves in a breeding program. I, for one, would not like everyone to aspire to an identical dog. Consequently, one

should be able to recognize and approve of quality even if the product isn't a clone of yours.

Finally, we associate in clubs and organizations and compete for position and recognition as leaders. Here the competition is direct, person to person, not deflected onto the dogs. One would hope that the sportsmanship of the participants would include a consideration for the organization itself and its goals. Such consideration may at times require sacrifice of one's self-aggrandizement for the good of the organization. However, such a sacrifice, although possibly painful in the short run, can only redound to one's benefit in the long run. Tolerance and cooperation are the key assets that club members should have. Sportsmanship, carried from the ring to the meeting room, will enable you to "get ahead" by "getting along." •

Choosing Your Vet

Phoebe Faulmann

MOST anyone who has been in dogs and dog breeding for a number of years can relate the importance of a competent veterinarian. To the breeder, his vet is generally a very intricate member of the doggy family; generally, the breeder doesn't just "happen" onto this jewel. Often it takes a breeder several years to develop a working relationship with "just the right" person.

There are as many types of vets as there are breeds of dogs. (Possibly more.) It takes a special person to devote their life to caring for animals. Unfortunately, there are varying degrees of devotion. Sometimes just "hanging of a shingle" is denoted to give the person under the shingle the right to practice veterinary medicine. There is nothing to let on whether or not the service is competent.

Most can give competent routine care, but if you should happen to have a "special" problem, it takes a person with not only a knowledge of healing, but with also a gift for healing. He must also be willing to sacrifice and devote unplanned hours in the dead of night. (Ah, those late night sections!)

Often, first time puppy buyers take great care searching out just the RIGHT puppy. They read books, write letters, and may drive long distances to acquire a puppy. The puppy will come with impressive guarantees, pedigree and contracts. They plan to do everything right by their new found treasure.

Once the puppy is in its new home, the time comes to continue the health care. How to decide on a doctor for the new pup? Likely as not, a trip to the Yellow Pages is all the time invested. Number one choice is the vet nearest and most convenient to their residence. Sometimes there

might be a few calls made to determine possible fees, in this case the vet with the lowest vaccination charges comes out the winner.

THERE are many instances where the vet found in the above manner serves pet and family for many years without a problem, and Fluff under good ol' vet's care lives to age thirteen or fourteen. But Fluff was always healthy, well cared for and never received anything more than her yearly checkup. She had been spayed early on and had never had a litter.

All too often the unsuspecting pet owner fails to realize that the vet who cares for their pup (soon to be dog and family member) should be scrutinized as closely as was the kennel or bloodline, prior to the purchase of puppy. It has always been very frustrating for me to try and explain to local pet owners that particular vets are, shall we say, "more gifted" than others. If "your" particular vet happens to be slightly higher on his fees, you can certainly be sure they will likely just travel around the corner for pup's health care. The most skilled vets are not always the most expensive, but I do believe one gets what they pay for. A 24-hour attendant would tend to raise the overhead above the clinic with 10-hour coverage for your hospitalized pet.

There is a feeling of loyalty that develops for a vet by a breeder after a number of years of faithful service. A breeder has to know she can believe and depend on the person they trust with their animal's life. There must never be doubt as to the care the animal receives.

There are currently two cases (one malpractice and one negligence) being investigated in our area for failure to provide good and reasonable care by "prominent" veterinarians. These instances might never have been uncovered had not the two dead dogs been bred by kennel club members whose "better sense" caused an investigation into the matters.

Too often the pet owner puts full trust and faith into their pet's doctor and are never even aware if an act of negligence or malpractice has been committed. It's possible that if committed, the acts could have been unconscious. As one breeder has described a vet in question, he's a good

ol' boy, great bedside manner, but face it, he's just not gifted. He did the best he knew how.

Naturally, I believe my current vet has been sent directly by God for my pets. I trust him and really believe that more than being there to serve the public, his primary goal is to serve the animals. This is not to say that I agree with everything he does, but when I don't, he allows for me to disagree with him and together we make a decision. One thing I never question is his competence and the competence of his staff. Remember, a veterinarian depends heavily on his aides in treat-

ment, surgical and post-op areas. Generally, if you don't get on with the help, it's best to move on.

So, if you're in the market for a pup, you will most certainly be on the lookout for a vet. If you think your pup is expensive, total up your projected vet charges for yearly vaccinations alone for the next ten years. Therefore, take the time and energy to locate that "special person" to care for your pet. Like as not, they may never be called on to perform a miracle, but just in case, you'll know he's got a pocketful from which to choose. •

Samoyed People

The Samoyed Quarterly
Talks With
Rita Bowling
BOWLSAM
Virginia Beach, Virginia

This interview was conducted at the home of Rita Bowling on December 10, 1982 by Lyn Snyder Hoflin.

How did you get started in dogs?

Well, I read the standard and history of the breed in "The Complete Dog Book" that AKC puts out, and was so captivated by the description that I decided I must have a Sam, so I ran out and bought a copy of Dog World and wrote to several of the advertisers. Most replied in time, but Mr. Miller of Snowflake Kennels in Connecticut answered right away, and I bought my first Sam from him. This was around 1960. Anyhow, her name was Snowflakes Anastasia, or Stacey for short, and she was a small, fine-boned bitch with a thinnish, droopy coat. Of course, I thought she was fabulous! So around three months later, I bought another bitch from him, and then, six months after that, I bought an eighteen-month-old male from Mrs. Morony of Alamo, Texas. These dogs were all from the Samingo line. This last dog's name was Marylake's Border Chieftain, better known as Rady. Around this time, I met Pete

Mediate, a professional handler, and he handled Rady for me. Pete handled all my dogs for many years and we remained good friends until his death last summer. Pete finished Rady in seven shows; he went Best of Breed six days in a row on the Tarheel Circuit. You have to remember, that was twenty years ago, in the early 60's. Later, Rady won second in Group, his biggest win. He was a very big dog, MUCH bigger than I would want today. I wouldn't dream of owning a dog that size today, but that's how we learn, you know. I didn't pursue that line; I gave him to a couple in Minnesota who lived on a farm, and he got to run and do his thing. I understand that he lived to a ripe old age.

He was never bred?

Oh, yes, I did breed him, but I didn't get what I wanted. By then, I was starting to learn, and although I had never met Mel Fishback in person, we sort of struck up a friendship by mail, and she educated me little by little, and I was breeding now and then, and showing my dogs, and that's how I learned. Eventually, I realized that this line, not to put down the line, but I realized it just wasn't what I wanted. Mel found White Krystal's Luba for me; she was out of Ch. Tyson's Rebel of Snow Ridge and Ch. Nadia of White Krystal, and was bred and owned by Lenora Sprock of Steam-

boat, Nevada. The only reason Lenora would even consider selling her is because she had broken her front leg in a sledding accident. Lenora was afraid there'd be a weakness in the leg, but there never was. She had beautiful, true movement. She was eleven months old when I bought her, and I paid \$75 for her. Can you believe it? Best investment I ever made. A beautiful bitch, and she finished in ten shows with three majors and several Best of Breed awards.

Even with the broken leg?

Yes. As I said, there was never any weakness in the leg, and you could never tell it had ever been broken, except for when she was completely out of coat; you could see a tiny bump at the top of the leg. I never mentioned it to Pete and he never noticed; nobody ever noticed. Anyhow, she was a medium-sized bitch with marvelous bone and substance. She had a lot of dark biscuit on the ears, and she produced biscuit in most of her pups. But, let me tell you, that was one strong bitch! Just gorgeous. I've never met her equal. Shortly after that, Mel found Startinda's Rabochi for me. Lloyd Bristol owned him and Mel persuaded her to sell him to me – no easy task, as Lloyd had a reputation of never selling her adult dogs. But Mel worked on her one entire night, and next morning, she phoned me and said, "Do I have a dog for you!"

She was very excited and said, "Wait until you see his pedigree; it's really something!" And that was Startinda's Rabochi, our wonderful "Heyboy" – and he was something to behold: around 23 inches with marvelous bone, substance and power. His front was spectacular and he had a good angulated rear. He moved a little close, as many good working dogs do, but he moved straight and true and was just wonderful. Pure White Way, he and Luba were the best dogs I ever had. They were first cousins, you know – their dams were littersisters. So, those two dogs were my foundation stock, and six and seven generations later, I'm still using their wonderful genes. You'll always find both of them in all of my pedigrees, sometimes more than once, and usually, on both the dam and sire sides. Not always, of course, but always on one or the other side.

What is your goal?

To produce dogs that are able to do what they're supposed to do, true working dogs above all else. I want to breed Samoyeds that are not only beautiful to look at and great to live with, but dogs who could pull a sled if they had to, or who could race with the best of them, if they had to, or do anything else you asked of them.

There is very little a Sam CAN'T do, you know. I've heard of people using them for hunting – not that I approve of hunting – but I've heard of them doing it and having wonderful luck. Why, I've even heard of a Samoyed that would point! (laughter) I really have!

Do you have any idea how many champions you've bred?

I've bred eight champions and owned six that were bred by other people. One Canadian champion, which I never owned, Ch. Silver Storm of Kombo, lived here with me for six months. I must say that, next to Heyboy, he was one of the best Samoyed males I've ever been around. Stormy was owned by Islay Aitchison of Glokon Kennels in Ontario. He's sire of two of my bitches, Can. Ch. Thea's Chanel and Nepachee's Stormy Silver Flair, and grandsire of a couple more. I try to put as much of Stormy into my pedigrees as possible because he has so much to offer. He came here because of a tragedy, really. Heyboy had been long deceased, and my only male at the time was Bowlsam's Bona-Fideaux, a son of Heyboy and a bitch named Tiki. His call name was "Pandy," and he was my favorite of all time. He was not my best dog, by any means, but he was the sweetest dog I ever knew – my constant companion. Anyhow, one day the oil man left my gate open by accident, and even though we live out in the country, cars still zoom up the road. I let Pandy out of the house, without knowing, and the next thing I knew, I heard screeching brakes and a dog yelp. Pandy was dead. I was it total shock. I phoned Islay in Canada to tell her what happened. She knew he was the only male I had here at the time, so she said, "Who do you want me to send?" Three days later, Stormy was on a plane.

While he was here, I bred him to Bowlsam's Mary Vee and kept Gabe from that breeding; he's Duke's sire. I

also bred him to a bitch named Nickie, and when Stormy went back to Canada, he took two of his daughters along with him. Islay got one, Can. Ch. Bowlsam's Pep 'N Zip of Glokon, and John and Kit Wilson got the other, Can. Ch. Bowlsam's Breeze of Cusona. Both finished by one year and Breeze is now also close to her American title. The day they were shipped to Canada, Kit Wilson sent me Cusona's Bowlsam Blue Crystal – we swapped puppies. They were the same age.

Crystal proved to be all I hoped for, and more. She produced Ch. Bowlsam's Midnight Sun and Ch. Bowlsam's Deja Vu, and her daughter, Bowlsam's House O'Risin Sun, who is owned by John Mullins of Richmond, only needs a major to finish. So it was a good swap for us both, to say the least. I was happy to get Crystal because she was sired by Glokon's Bowling King Pin, an Echo son. Islay bred him and still owns him; he's done some great producing.

Islay Aitchison and I became friends when she shipped her Canadian champion bitch to me to be bred to Heyboy. That was many years ago. She had once owned a Startinda bitch, so she knew the quality, and she wanted to make sure she got something from Heyboy before he got any older. So her bitch, Onnie – for the life of me, I can't remember her registered name – whelped five females and Islay was pleased. Shortly after that, she bought Bowlsam's Flamette at Glokon, an Echo daughter from me, and not too long after that, she bought Echo herself.

So when I told Islay about her, she said she'd like to have her, and that's how she ended up in Canada. Lucky for Echo and lucky for us. Islay and I have been working together ever since – I mean collaborating. She does her own thing and I do mine, but we swap puppies back and forth; I'll send a bitch up there and she'll breed it one day and send a bitch back, then I'll breed that bitch and send something from the breeding, and so forth. We've been doing it for years and it works out grand.

That's where all those names come from – Harmony, Duet, etc. It's so much fun this way and we're coming up with some awfully good dogs. Another Canadian breeder, Betty



Left to right: Ch. Bowlsam's Deja Vu, Ch. Bowlsam's Midnight Sun and Bowlsam's House O' Risin Sun.

McHugh of Nepachee Kennels, who also happens to be a judge, sent Nepachee's Stormy Silver Flair and Ch. Thea's Chanel to me last year. Both bitches had been sired by Stormy, as I mentioned. Chanel had finished in Canada in four shows, undefeated, and Flair had run on Betty's team. I bred Flair to Lightfoot last year and produced a litter of nine. Two bitches from the breeding were sent to Canada and Betty kept one, which she named Bowlsam's Nepachee Krystal. Betty teaches canine structure up there, and measures dogs. She recently measured Krystal and got a 40-degree layback, which is awfully good. The average dog in the ring today has around a 30-degree layback, and if you see a 35-degree, you're seeing a good mover. My daughter and I drove up to Canada a couple of years ago and brought Duke with us. He was under a year old at the time and Betty measured him at 41 degrees. I've never heard of any dog who was officially measured that ever came up with a 45-degree layback with the exception of Silveracres Sir Glokon. He was officially measured and that's what he was. People can say what they wish, and they can come up with all the new theories in the world, but figures don't lie. Oh, I'm sure there have been many other dogs with 45-degree lay-

back – it's possible Heyboy could have been – he was never measured, but Sir was the only one I ever heard of.

If you had an outstanding dog that was just super, good temperament and good conformation, but he had a serious fault, would you breed to it?

If I had an outstanding dog with a serious fault, he wouldn't BE an OUTSTANDING dog. No, I certainly wouldn't!

What would be a serious enough fault to prevent the breeding?

Epilepsy, badly cowhocked, undershot jaw, bad temperament, extreme under or oversize, eye problems, and it goes without saying that non-x-rayed dogs shouldn't be bred.

What are your feelings about co-owning?

Never. I've never co-owned a dog and never will. If you want to lose a good friend, go ahead and do it. First of all, one party ends up doing all the work, and the other party feels that she is spending all the money. And, no matter what you do, the other person thinks you've made the wrong decision. I want to own my own dogs outright. I want to make all the decisions, right or wrong – I've made them and they are mine. I don't mind all the work and I don't mind spending all the money. Now COLLABORATION is another matter entirely; Islay and I

swap back and forth and have no problem at all because the puppies I send to her are HERS and the ones she sends to me are MINE. No strings attached.

What are your feelings about linebreeding, inbreeding and outcrossing?

I don't outcross, I linebreed. You will always find Heyboy and Luba in my pedigrees, and usually, on both sides.

A lot of Startinda and White Way?

Oh, yes. A lot of White Way. Of course, Startinda WAS White Way. As I said before, I sometimes go back six, seven generations in my pedigrees, dogs I've bred or owned, and I like that. I know the backgrounds; I know what is there. I stick with the same basic dogs. Oh, you have to introduce some new blood here and there, but you work it into your line and make it count.

As far as outcrossing goes, I think it should only be employed when you're trying to overcome something undesirable in your own line, more or less to improve, then go right back to your own line.

Do you have any biscuit dogs?

Oh, yes, I often produce biscuit. Quite a bit sometimes, and some dogs more than others. Duke happens to be an all-white dog, but he came from a biscuit litter. Most of them had biscuit. The English claim that an all-

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white dog that comes from a biscuit litter will produce dazzling white puppies has been true in Duke's case. No matter who he's bred to, the puppies are dazzling white, so the English theory has proven itself to me. I was going to keep Duke's brother instead of him, but Pete liked Duke better – not because he was all white, but because of his exceptional rear. I was also going to keep a bitch from that breeding, but we lost her to what we thought was parvo.

How would you describe the ideal Samoyed, the perfect Samoyed?

Before anything else, he would have to be within the standard, size-wise, but at the upper half. I like a good-sized dog, but not gigantic. I'd say 23 inches is an ideal size for a male; I like a bitch who is at LEAST 20 inches. I'd want plenty of bone without being clumsy, good substance. Strong rear quarters, well bent stifles, plenty of rear angulation. All this furor about overangulation – I sure as heck haven't seen it – in fact, the OPPOSITE seems to be the case – so many straight stifles! Anyhow, I want a good shoulder layback, certainly not a steep shoulder. Lots of reach, nice, long upper arm; plenty of let down – I can't stand high hocks – THEY ARE INCORRECT, according to the standard, and, after all, that's supposed to be our guide. Should have a hare foot, cat feet are not correct. Tough, thick pads; good, strong pasterns that are nice and straight but with some flexibility. A slight slope is correct. I don't like a long coat, but I prefer a thick coat. A good, standout coat and a nice ruff on the male. No extreme beary-type, but certainly not a rangy wolf-type, either. A good blend of the two is best. Not a long back, but not cobby, either. Good coupling with a firm topline, lightly sloping croup, well-sprung ribs, good tuckup, and one thing you're starting to see are thin ears. Samoyeds should have thick, triangular ears which are slightly rounded at the tips – well furred. Never a round eye – you want an almond-shaped eye. If you got something like that, you'd really have something, huh? Temperament is so terribly important; if he didn't have anything else, you better put temperament on the top of the list. Beauty is as beauty does, the old saying goes.

If a dog is a kook, if he piddles all

over himself every time you look at him, or if he meets all of your friends at the door with his fangs showing, then what good is he? I don't care HOW many Bests of Breed or Group wins or anything else he has, he's worthless in my book. You can't live with him, and my dogs live as members of the family. Well, I guess that's how I'd describe the perfect Sam.

How important is movement?

It's the whole thing, next to temperament. IF the judges could only judge for one thing, it should be movement, because if a dog isn't constructed properly, he can't move properly. If he moves well, he's what he's supposed to be, and I think side movement is most important of all, because then you see it all. Oh, yes, movement is the most important thing of all – how he moves is what he is.

Do you think the Samoyed Standard is good?

Absolutely. I wish everyone would adhere to it, and also, I wish the judges would learn it and judge accordingly. Starting with the biscuit, which the standard says is fine, and going right on to the leg length. The standard calls for moderately long legs; short legs are incorrect according to the standard, so why do so many judges put up short-legged dogs?

Is there anything specific that you think should be done to the standard?

No. Leave it alone! When you start chipping away at the standard, it isn't long before it's totally unrecognizable – nothing at all the way it was originally intended. Also, the current vogue dictates the changes; whoever is doing the most showing at the time – how THEIR dogs look – where the POWER lies, currently. Our standard is wonderful just the way it is. There is plenty of room for everyone to express themselves freely within the standard. We don't have to have carbon copies of each other's dogs – we can all do our own thing and still be perfectly correct. No – absolutely not – leave the standard alone!

What advice would you give to someone who wanted to be a breeder of Samoyeds and was just starting out?

Many years ago, Virginia Belikoff, an old-time breeder, advised me, and I think it's wonderful advice: "Be honest in all your dog dealings, as honest as you possibly can, and

remember, nobody can make or break you. What you become is entirely up to you. You are either going to make it because you deserve it, or you'll just be nobody." I never forgot that. My own advice to newcomers would be: buy your foundation stock from a reputable breeder. Start with the very best dogs you can buy; remember, you can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear, so start with the best material possible.

Study the books on genetics; stick to your own line; linebreed for the most part, though sometimes, you may have to outcross a little in order to overcome some problem, but then, go right back into your own line. That's why you should start with a line you admire and respect. Do it with the idea in mind that you're going to stick with it.

Have patience, because if you learned it all at once, the fun would be gone, and what would you have, really? If everyone bred perfect dogs, well, there would never be a challenge and there would be no fun in it. You couldn't express yourself in your own way, so have patience and enjoy your dogs.

Show them and you'll learn. Remember, nobody can predict a dog show; you may think you've got it in the bag, or you may think you don't stand a chance, but you're often fooled. Nobody ever loses in a dog show, because in every single show, you've won something – if only experience. You'll always be learning. You know, in all the years I've been in it, I recently realized that I've learned more in the last seven or eight years than all the others together. It's a continuous learning process. You can't read a book and say, "Oh, I read the book, and now I know it all." Because you don't. You have to have years of practical experience; it's ten times more important than all the theory in the world. You have to live it yourself; it takes time, but each experience you have, good or bad, contributes to the all-around picture.

Sometimes there are those who will try to psych you out when you first try to show, especially when you have a good dog. Virginia Belikoff told me that when she first started, she had a lousy dog, but she didn't know – she thought it was a wonderful specimen. So she entered him in some

shows. The other exhibitors greeted her warmly and gave her all the encouragement in the world. She helped make points for their dogs, you see. Well, she continued to lose consistently, and the crowd continued to adore and encourage her. One day, she woke up and realized her dog was a stinkeroo, so she placed him and bought a real good one from a top breeder. When she walked into the show building with her new, fantastic dog, she was greeted with icy stares. Nobody liked her anymore. So, don't feel bad if you suddenly find yourself alone at a dog show; it means you're doing something right; you've got something good. But there are a lot of wonderful people in Samoyeds who are willing to help newcomers. Write to people; if you see a dog you like in a magazine, drop the owner a line and tell her so. People love to have their dogs admired, and you might make yourself a lifetime friend.

What are some of the advantages and disadvantages of being in dogs?

The advantages far outweigh the disadvantages, I can tell you that. You are never bored, always there is something to do, and someplace to go, because there's always a dog show, somewhere, and you're needed - 24 hours a day, you're needed. You live an exciting and interesting life and have a hobby that the whole family can enjoy. It's wonderful for kids, and it keeps the family together. You get to travel to all the shows, and you

meet people from all walks of life, people you would never have met otherwise, your paths never would have crossed if it hadn't been for dogs.

You can't say you don't have anything to do because there are always dog clubs to join, and the clubs are always desperate for workers. You also get the love of these fine animals - the kind of love that you can never get from other human beings. They truly love you and don't care if you don't have a nice house or a lot of money, or if you're homely, or you could even be the biggest crook in town - they would think you're WONDERFUL! They make you feel as if you're really somebody.

The disadvantages are: you spend every cent you have on them; there is never such a thing as having money left over, because if there IS some left over, you always need a new crate or grooming table, or you're going on a circuit and want to hire a good handler and so forth. For Christmas, forget the perfume and negligees - you need a new dog dryer. You spend every cent on them and love every minute of it; and, if you keep your dogs in the house, as I do, there are going to be accidents, from time to time. You're not going to have a lot of beautiful furniture if you keep the dogs in the house; it can be very clean, but it will never be classy again. Who cares?

You're pretty well tied down and have to watch the clock when you go out, so you can hurry back home and

let the dogs out ... but, the advantages outweigh the disadvantages a million to one. I can't imagine how it would be to come home to a silent house, to open the door and not have all the dogs barking greetings and whipping themselves silly with their wagging tails. Does a husband do that? Heck no!

Dog hair is everywhere, all over my clothes, in my hair - I'm practically white-headed sometimes - on my coat and in my eyelashes. My husband used to imagine there was dog hair in every dish I served - he'd stare at his breakfast eggs for a full fifteen minutes before getting up the nerve to eat it. This was in the early days, but, after a few dozen hysterics on my part, he finally quit doing it. I used to say, "So, you found a DOG HAIR - big deal! What's wrong with a clean, white hair? Now, if it were a PEOPLE HAIR, I'd gag myself."

Anyhow, all these years with the dogs have been wonderful, and I don't regret one cent I've ever spent on them or one mess I've ever cleaned up or any of the friends I've lost - non-dog people who stopped coming to my home because they couldn't stand all the dogs around - that's THEIR loss; or any of the other so-called disadvantages. I feel that everyone should do something constructive with their life, and being in dogs and working to improve the breed helps me in that respect.

Thank you very much. •

Grieving When We Say "Good-Bye"

*Rosalind M. McEnroe
Oshkosh, Wisconsin*

THESE are unspoken vows we live by when our dogs weave themselves into the fabric of our lives.

As dog fanciers, we often devote ourselves to our animals and our sport. Dogs give owners, particularly the elderly, a sense of purpose, fulfill emotional needs and even keep us healthier when we routinely exercise

them. The statement on a popular bumper sticker, "The more I know some people, the better I like my dogs!" articulates a claim that indeed, the dog is "man's best friend."

It is tragic and sad when death severs this special bond of man and dog. Most of us have a keen understanding of the needs of our pets throughout their life. We even make careful arrangements via wills for their care should something ever happen to us. We do this because it is a neces-

sary part of being a totally responsible pet owner. As important, we owe it to ourselves to be prepared mentally to understand our own personal needs when death separates our pet from us. We live with an even more desperate need of finding a system of grieving when actually confronted with death.

We may evade, ignore and fear the subject of death although the most universal reason for grief is death. Many of us who have feared death in general have no idea what to do or

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how to feel or grieve. Our pet's death may be as traumatic and destructive to our mental and physical health as the death of a close human friend or relative.

The dangers of grief have been historically recorded by medieval writers who called grief induced depression and withdrawal "melancholy." Grief also appeared in medical reports as early as the 1600's as causes for death. It is widely accepted today that grief and bereavement follow human loss whether it is a loss of a person or loss of some other important animal or object.

We may be familiar with losses that occur in life situations such as a loss of a job, a broken marriage, moving away from friends, or children leaving for college, but be totally unprepared to cope with loss resulting from death. Death of our favorite dog may be, perhaps, the first traumatic encounter with personal grief.

The impact death has on us is directly related to the circumstances of the death. We may suffer great grief when loss is caused by sudden and unexpected death such as accidental death. We also suffer from predictable deaths such as death from old age or from "putting down" a dog suffering from disease.

The more unexpected the death, the more severe our response is apt to be. It may be in the form of physical collapse or dazed withdrawal, denial with the inability to realize the reality of death. Personal behavior runs the range of violent anger to stoicism. The suffering from an unanticipated death is said to be more severe for both men and women.

ROBERT Fulton describes anticipating a predictable death in his 1970 "Study of Grief." The initial reaction is depression followed by a great heightened concern for the ill. It is this phenomena which explains the difference of anticipated and unanticipated bereavement. Guilt is the contributing factor to traumatic bereavement and persons who can sympathetically suffer with a deteriorating condition feel less guilty and suffer less. For instance, if you anticipate the course of a disease and meet your animal's every medical need and comfort the animal during this time, you've had the opportunity

to rehearse for the end and make intellectual and emotional preparations not afforded a direct confrontation of unexpected death.

Guilt is often a mixture of justified or unjustified feelings of regrets about unattained goals or our insufficient care for the dead. This type of guilt is what makes death so difficult to live with and accept.

"With sudden death, the numbness and disbelief is a defense mechanism that serves as a barrier against the overwhelming pain and sorrow that the individual perceives as unbearable," says Dr. Richard Schultz. "It is during this time, the bereaved feels cold, numb, dazed, empty and confused."¹

After these initial reactions, the reality of death is absorbed and all encompassing sorrow follows with periods of crying and weeping. This period of acute grief can last from four to six weeks.

In a study on grief by Eric Lindeman, there are common symptoms for individuals suffering from acute grief. Somatic (body) distress occurs repeatedly and lasts from two minutes to an hour. There are symptoms of tightness in the throat, choking with shortness of breath, a need for sighing, an empty feeling in the abdomen, the loss of muscular power and intense tension or mental pain.²

The initial shocked grief state can vary with the griever's temperament and situation. It is often thought that living and dying cannot be separated and how one handles everyday disappointments and losses is a preparation for how one handles death. A person could remain numbed and dazed or apathetic or become oppositely overactive. He may show frenzied activity and at the same time have an inability to complete tasks well. He may become very restless and irritable and have a need to search to do something, suffer from sleeplessness, loss of appetite, headaches and lethargy.

It is understandable that a person may become very alarmed with these aspects of grief which are alien to his usual personality and feel he is "out of control" of his emotions. A person may become angry or hostile and respond to the hurt by "taking it out" on someone at an inappropriate time and in an irrational form. He may

even become angry at the dead animal himself. Unfortunately, angry feelings often turn into feelings of guilt and self-hate from self-accusations. This type of guilt is often unfounded as the griever doesn't have the power to control the situations that lead to the death, but nevertheless, the guilt feelings are a natural reaction to grief.

Recommended methods of treatment of the physical shock of grief involve maintaining body warmth and taking physical rest. This is contrary to the often offered advice of well-meaning friends and family to "keep busy," and our own emotional compulsion for activity while trying to ignore the pain. Often a person remains in conflict whether to respond to his sorrow or subdue these feelings and the preoccupation with subjects concerning the deceased.

DENIAL of a loss and the pain accompanying can lead to the psychological problems later. It is far wiser to acknowledge the pain without shame and satisfy personal needs. Mourning a dog, for instance, should not be stigmatized as being foolish, morbid, or unhealthy, especially when our dog is not "just a dog." We should not feel compelled to justify our feelings of sadness but only feel compelled to come to terms with them.

Freud was one of the first to explore the psychological phenomena of grief and mourning. He suggested that there is a more positive outcome for the mourning person who faces up to the loss than for one who avoids it.

Freud stated that grief represents a breakdown of the denial of death and it is a process whereby the mourner can no longer deny the reality of death. He stated that the process of grieving is a systematic withdrawal from the ties and interactions of the dead. We are bound to memories that were a part of our interaction with our pet, for instance, and to become free of this tie, we must go through a process termed "hypercathexis," which requires the mourner to turn his back on the real world and invest all his energies in the struggle to "decathect" the loved object.³ It is through the focusing the mind on the lost dog's memory in our case, and by the purposefully bringing each relevant memory to consciousness that the mourner

can free himself and realize a sense of peace.

In grieving, we may be obsessed with memories of the dead animal and spend a great deal of time thinking about and reliving the events leading up to the death. Guilt often induces us to entertain thoughts such as, "If only I had done this ..." Reviewing the personal choices leading to the death and imagining different outcomes go on and on. The passing of time and the futility of constantly reviewing the incidents and subsequent outcomes reinforce the real outcome. It is through this process that the reality of death is absorbed and accepted.

We also constantly search for the meaning of death. Why did this have to happen? God's will might satisfy some, or we may never be completely satisfied with an answer. With unexpected death, the mourner may never really understand how or why it occurred. We may become obsessed with a fear that it could happen again as before, and we may even adapt fearful behavior reactions. Anticipated death, on the other hand, is less frightening and less traumatic, because it is understood. We can understand the limitations of age, for instance, or a disease that runs its course.

WE go through a mental searching for the pet in our process of grieving. We may feel a compelling force leading us to places where we are most likely to evoke the presence of the deceased. We may call out or use the dog's name and expect him to come. Animal bereavement studies done by Dr. J. Bowlby in 1961 show that humans and dogs, geese and chimpanzees share this similar behavior. "Members of lower species protest at the loss of a loved object, do all in their power to seek it and recover it; hostility, externally directed, is frequent; withdrawal, rejection of a potential new object, apathy and restlessness are the rule."⁴

The delicate subject of whether or not to introduce a substitute pet might be better understood in light of this information. A progeny pet may well be a comfort and satisfy a need to search for the lost animal's presence. Conversely, a replacement could be rejected based on the behavioral observations of Bowlby. Caution and sensitivity must guide the possible

introductions of a replacement pet.

GRIEVING is completed by a more controlled phase. The "grief work" takes on the characteristics of being a group crisis. The bereaved is still dealing with the death, and surrounding family and friends must react to the crisis. A crisis affects a relationship and once the situation is acknowledged and examined by all parties, a healing process progresses. The sharing and support of friends makes the process a bit easier to bear.

Sincere sympathy is supportive, comforting and appreciated. "Being there" for a grieved person, respecting a need to talk or inability to talk about the death crisis is needed. Avoiding the subject is insensitive; people should not feel embarrassed or ill at ease offering sympathy, but rather assume a helpful and supportive role. We must permit our love of dogs to cast a reflection of love and concern for humanity, for, according to a Tale of Hasidium, "To know the needs of men and to bear the burden of their sorrow — that is the true love of men."⁵

It is generally agreed that the duration of human grief depends largely on how well the individual finds a system to complete his "grief work." Recognizing and accepting the hardships of bereavement is the only way a person can make a healthy readjustment to the environment in which the deceased is missing. The nature of our personal mourning can't be predicted because it depends on many factors such as our relationship with the cat, the circumstances of the death, and the inner resources of the grieved. We can explore the patterns of mourning, but it will take a different form with each individual. Each of us must complete the mourning process in his own time and way. There is no normal pattern or time limit; grief can't be hurried. In time, one does again gain emotional balance, although we may have recurring circumstances that trigger depression long after we think we've recovered.

The mourning process is a healthy physical and mental healing process. Through the process we often discover the depth of our feelings. When life's frightening uncertainties are more controlled and predictable and understood, we are better prepared for them.

When we are prepared for the grief process, there is a certain healing power that generates us to reinvest ourselves in our lives again. Once the task of grieving has been completed, the dependence on the physical presence of the lost diminishes and the bereaved becomes able to draw on memories, both happy and unhappy, and to share these memories with others. Grieving is a needed healing process we must all experience when we say "good-bye" to one of our "best friends."

Final Considerations ...

... For Yourself. Death is difficult to deal with, but by preparing for it in advance, we gain control and dignity which aids in giving us a sense of emotional peace. Investigating alternatives such as cremation, pet burial cemeteries, legal considerations governing burial locations should take place before a death. Consider many things such as unhealthy temptations to repeatedly visit a pet's grave or possibilities of having a grave disturbed by animals, or sad remorse from discovering too late that the final resting place of your cat is an undignified landfill. Just recently appearing in a local newspaper was a despairing lament of a lady suffering from the experience of having her pet disposed of in a landfill as common garbage.

Certain therapy exists in making dignified arrangements. Perhaps burying the pet's ashes beneath a special flowering bush (dogwood, bleeding heart, etc.) in a special place at home can be meaningful. Doing whatever is meaningful is important. If you wish to scratch your dog's ears "good-bye" and touch him gently for the last time, then you should do it. Certain final rituals help us accept what has happened.

The statement "When you fall off a horse, get right back on" best expresses another important consideration. It is important to resume activities although they may take on a "similar yet different" aspect. Getting involved with a new show or breeding prospect may be very therapeutic. An active, playful puppy licking and romping can bring a smile to the saddest face. Also, there is value in having yourself emotionally invested in more than one dog at any given time — a transferring of attention to the surviving pet is natural.

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... For Others. Be an instrument of sympathy, a reinforcement of "no guilt," and hope. The obvious sympathy cards and personal notes, snapshots, and reminiscences of "special times" are very effective. When words are difficult to find, an honest statement serves beautifully. "I'm at a loss for words, I don't know what I could do or say, but I just want you to know how sorry I am this happened. I know how much a dog can mean to a person, and if you want to talk about this, we can. I'll also understand if you'd rather talk about something else for right now ... and we don't even have to talk at all."

Supportive statements relieving guilt of the grieved is a tremendous gesture. "You did all you possibly and humanly could have." "No matter how much you love and care for an animal, these accidents happen. You can't and shouldn't blame yourself."

Perspectives

*Dave Richardson
Fullerton, California*

THE following is fiction and any resemblance to real incidents or people is surely coincidental. A play in one act. Possibly less.

SCENE: A dark and dingy building, open to the elements. Tired whitewash covers the exposed inner surfaces of the wood walls. Rusty fluorescent lights hang from the ceiling, festooned with spider webs in hopes of a witches party. Empty holding stalls for animals can be seen in the background; a couple contain dog pens and one has two grooming tables set end to end with a many lying on them, asleep.

Two rings for exhibition have been erected in the center of the building. One of them is deserted, surrounded by hunks and piles of grey and white dog hair and other trash. The second ring is three quarters filled with furry white dogs with erect ears and tails carried or held over their

back. Offer hope and reinforce past accomplishments. Reinforce the thought that although the dog is gone, there is hope that the same love and dedication will achieve a similar fulfilling relationship and desired goals. "Wouldn't you be proud if that puppy grew up to be his sire's Best in Show winner?"

Remember to be the kind of supportive friend you'll need in the same situation.

References

1. Schultz, Richard. "The Psychology of Death, Dying and Bereavement," Addison-Wesley Publishing, 1978.
2. Ibid., p. 143.
3. Ibid., p. 137.
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back. The dogs with their backs to he audience have noticeably dirty hocks. One of the handlers is staring at the spider webs, as though he and his dog were being stalked by a man – or dog – or both – eating spider. His dog is baiting, with a slightly crazed expression, off of the tail of the bitch in front of him.

An inner circle of five dogs and handlers stand and watch the center of the ring. The dogs make up an interesting coterie of short, fat, droopy coated, large, crewcut, and generally opposed offerings of type. In the center, a dog and bitch are set up in front of a short, thin man who wears a purple ribbon pinned to his left lapel. In his left hand he holds a red and white ribbon, while with his right hand he is passing a gold and purple ribbon to the tall, gentle-appearing man holding the dog, while the bewildered looking lady with the bitch has her hand held out in front of her, as though she had been expecting something.

As the curtain rises, the players are stopped in frozen action. They

remain this way except when they pull out of their positions and come to stage front center to play their parts; then to return to their places in the scheme of things.

Dog #1: (A lady handler. Classy, in control.) "I don't get it. I thought I had the breed. You know how you can feel it when the judge is locked onto you. We went down and we came back and it really worked well. The side gait was flawless. The dog showed his heart out. Maybe he's not the judge's type. Maybe he was sidwinding a little. Maybe he wasn't clean enough. Aw c'mon, that was my breed. **WHAT THE HELL WENT WRONG?"**

Dog #2: (Fat dude, wearing a baseball cap, red faced and angry.) "When this guy pulled me out, I figured he had seen my ads in the last eighteen issues of 'Animal Annals' and that I was on my way to the big one this time. Maybe I was wrong. Maybe he didn't see the ads. Maybe he didn't see the \$3,100 worth of ads I've run this quarter. I think I'll kill him – just before I kill myself. **WHAT THE HELL WENT WRONG?"**

Dog #3: (Young gal, ingenue type but with cleavage and jiggles.) "What's with this turkey? I gave him the top down shot of the navel and I gave him the bottoms up shot of the thighs and he doesn't even twitch. Maybe I should have dropped the motel key while he examined the dog. Maybe I should have had dinner with him after the judges' party last night. Maybe he only likes guys? **WHAT THE HELL WENT WRONG?"**

Dog #4: (Man, mid-thirties, pleasant looking, well dressed, bewildered.) "Gee, my dog looks small out here. I wish he had the hair that we left laying all over the grooming room floor. Back when we were winning Groups on the East Coast with him, things just seemed to work out better. I wonder why he didn't want to bait today? Maybe the liver has too much garlic salt on it? Maybe the judge insists on full coats. No, he put up his father in a puppy coat. Well, somebody had to win, but I still wonder **WHAT THE HELL WENT WRONG?"**

Dog #5: (Tough looking broad, keeps looking over her shoulder at distinguished looking silver haired gen-

tleman with a disgusted look and a seat just behind the judge's table.) "Oh, frink, am I going to hear about this one. Ex-top winning dog that belongs to the ex-president of this frinking kennel club. Won't even put up the money to turn on the frinking lights or clean up the frinking floor, but dropped 150 frinking dollars on dinner with the judge last night and the judge just smiled and burped while he examined this frinking dumb clunk of a dog. WHAT THE HELL WENT WRONG?"

Lady with the Outstretched Hand: (Fire in eyes, smoke from ears.) "That old fool. This bitch went Best in Show yesterday and just replaced old man What'sis Ch. Dumb Clunk as the Top Dog in Breed and he's going to give me the Best of Opposite Sex. I can't stand it. All of my work and sweat and driving 800 miles just to

this lousy show. There's no justice. I DESERVE that breed just for my being here. So, he gives me the BOS and WHAT THE HELL WENT WRONG?"

MAN with the Gentle Smile and the Purple and Gold Ribbon: (Bemusedly.) "Son of a gun. Look at what my ol' vet just pulled off. I thought we were out here for the ride. You know, support the show, go for the first in Veterans. Yep, we were just going to go and show for the fun of it and now look at this. Son of a gun, I wonder WHY IT WENT SO WELL."

Judge: (looking around himself with wonder and holding his hand to his back.) "Whooiee, Ah shore am glad Ah got through that in one piece. Ah swan, jest look at all them white dawgs and they all look alike. At least

my dawgs are marked and colored different. It woulda been kinda interesting to go through all these dawgs again, but what with my back hurtin' so bad and all, Ah reckon I'll jes stick with my Veteran over there. Y'all ever get stuck with a nasty decision, jest remember that you cain't really ever go wrong with the old dogs.

"I'll let y'all in on a little secret. Ya see, I put this dawg up to breed in his younger days and Ah gave him points before that. Ah like this dawg. Ah just have one request to the owner. Please, don't show him under me again!"

(As the judge turns and slowly limps back to his place stage center, the curtain falls.)

My thanks go to the handler of the Best of Breed dog for the idea and to some of the inner circle for their dialogue. •

Dealing With Hip Dysplasia – Honestly

Phoebe Faulmann

RECENTLY I decided that my ego was intact enough to admit that I have produced some hip dysplasia (HD) in my breeding program and do an article based on some of the feelings I have encountered in dealing with it. It seemed almost crucifying at one point in my career that anyone would ever admit to having produced more than one dysplastic dog, especially in something as tangible as print, but here I go. I hope that this will not start unfounded rumors of a large number of dysplastics from certain bloodlines, as I am not dealing with large numbers of dogs nor specific bloodlines. There are obviously dysplastics in every bloodline, hence the reason we are all concerned over the problem.

Early on in my career I hardly listened or even tried to explore the rationale for HD in the breed. I really didn't believe it could happen to me. I had dogs that always received OFA numbers, many rated excellent. These

dogs were descended from dogs with OFA numbers and I bred to clear dogs. It wasn't, in my mind, likely to happen if I followed the prescribed guidelines as set for by responsible breeders. At this point, I still have never had a dog that I raised turn out positive for HD (there's still time for that); unfortunately, I have had to deal with it through clients who came to me either seeking companions for their children or a young couple who have always wanted to own a Sam. What a wonderful way to REALLY get to know the breed and learn first hand all you ever wanted to know about HD. Many are the times I have explained to prospective buyers the advantages of owning a pup from champion, OFA clear, parents as opposed to the local pet shop dog. Those folks trust you and leave with the pup only to have it put down at nine months or so with HD. It somehow shoots down your credibility, not to mention your own idea of self-regard. It doesn't take too many of those instances to begin to make you feel like a real heel.

My first experience came last year

with a call from an hysterical, crying woman! She told me she had just had her twelve-month-old pup put down due to dysplasia. It took several minutes for the information to hit home, but when I collected my thoughts, my first reactions were shock and disbelief ... HD, that doesn't happen to "my" dogs. My feelings rapidly progressed to anger. At first the anger was directed at the woman for not calling me BEFORE the pup was put down – next it focused on the vet. How stupid can you get, everyone knows only OFA can read the films, and who does he think he is putting the pup down. I felt that there was no way he could have been competent enough to make such a decision.

ALL my defense mechanisms were in full swing, all directed at preserving my own ego. It was several days after the call and several meetings with the vet and family that I was able to accept the facts. The most appropriate and humane decision had been made. I was crushed. My anger at the woman turned to empathy

as I realized how much she had loved her pup and what she and her children had gone through during the pup's degenerating condition. I then pointed out the terms of the HD contract and told the family that there would be a replacement pup available within the year. They unanimously declined, saying they didn't have the heart to take a chance with another pup. I began to think seriously about the grief the pup had brought to this family.

It was the very next week that I got the next call. It was from my sister in Kentucky. She said that there was something going on with her pup. It seemed that he was having trouble climbing the stairs to the house and getting up after lying down. Although an X-ray confirmed the diagnosis, I knew right away what was going on. Although my anxiety was somewhat decreased because I was dealing with my sister and her dog had a better prognosis, I went into a tailspin. The days that followed were miserable. When the phone rang, I would hold my breath, anticipating more bad news. I went through ideas of putting all the dogs in pet homes and getting out completely, and also spent a good deal of time, effort and money having them re-x-rayed. I called pet owners who had bought pups and told them the situation and encouraged them to x-ray as soon as possible and report the news. I notified the owners of littermates about what I had found out. Naturally, I looked to other breeders for support during my "crisis." I didn't find my situation to be quite as unique as I had thought. Many of them told me that at one point they had experienced much the same situation as I had. It's tough, but if you breed long enough, you realize that finally the law of averages catches up with you. If it is in the breed, you are going to see it sooner or later, everything from A to Z. These same people helped me to realize that I had succumbed to the law of averages and that I needn't feel dishonest representing my pups as good and deserving specimens of the breed. You can't program your bitches and dogs not to produce defects.

They were most likely right, I decided, and my getting out of the dogs was not going to prove any point, but I did decide to utilize my home

computer system to put together records and data that might prove helpful to me later on down the line. Possibly I could organize records that might be helpful in determining what combination of lines or just plain dogs themselves would produce better percentages than other combinations. The information would be, for the most part, for my own personal use. I began to contact folks who I thought would most probably be able to give me the most reliable information concerning my dogs and dogs within their pedigrees. This was information based on all my dogs, not just the ones that had directly produced the HD for me.

I explained to the people I contacted just what my motives were for collecting the data, I wasn't out to point fingers or gather incriminating evidence.

Of the folks I talked with, only two breeders were willing to help me with the information that I was requesting. They were not at all inhibited or surprised that I was interested in getting my hands on that kind of information. The others "didn't have that kind of problem" or found it very interesting that I would get so concerned about producing a "dysplastic or two." Amazing, I thought. There appeared to be just a handful of folks that are concerned with HD to admit they have it and to keep records on what they have produced over the years. On the other hand, I can relate to the fears of the others. I once heard two breeders talking about a breeding one or the other was planning to a top name dog and one stated, "You aren't really going to use HIM, you know I heard that his grandsire on the dam's side produced a litter of 50 percent dysplastics." Well, if something can stay with a dog that long and that far back, you can almost understand why no one was willing to spill their guts out telling me about which one of their dogs had produced anything more than an occasional dysplastic. Even as I now write, I have to say I am wondering what impact this might have on my dogs. I honestly get choked up when a prospective buyer calls and I begin to talk seriously over the chance that their dog could be dysplastic. Odds are still in their favor that it won't happen, but by explaining the possibility and alternatives available

up front can be helpful if the situation does arise. I may have lost a few buyers, but if someone else can assure them that a pup from their breeding will not turn dysplastic, I really would rather they would go to the other breeder.

I now believe that no matter how careful and ethical a breeder is, negative things such as HD do happen, it just takes longer in some cases than others. The injustice is done when you try to cover up the facts or play down a situation that might be harmful to others. If you sell five pups and only one goes to a show home and is clear, but the others, who no one really knows about, all have HD, I think that the owner of the clear pup should be informed. It could affect his desire to breed and his choice of mate.

THERE are several factors that predispose a dog to HD. Heredity, nutrition, environment, and trauma. It could be that some dogs just receive a larger dose of all four than others. My sister's dog was raised entirely on concrete and linoleum. Both the dysplastic pups I relate to in this article received high levels of cytotoxic antibiotics in utero for prophylactic treatment of postpartum infection in the dam. This was on my vet's advice, and with my limited knowledge of pharmacology, I never even questioned him. The drug interferes with DNA and also decreases bone marrow production. That could have been a predisposing factor, the vet says, "No."

My present concern is with the fact that when I was trying to collect data that could possibly help me decrease the number of dysplastics I might produce in the future, I met with a fair amount of resistance. Maybe they didn't have any real records to offer or maybe they were just afraid of getting labeled. Anyone who breeds can relate to that fear, now more than ever, I am aware of their position.

We are in a competitive sport and many of us have "trade" secrets, but maybe we could all get along better by admitting to imperfection and allowing folks to get an honest opinion of what we really have to offer them. •

Samoyed People

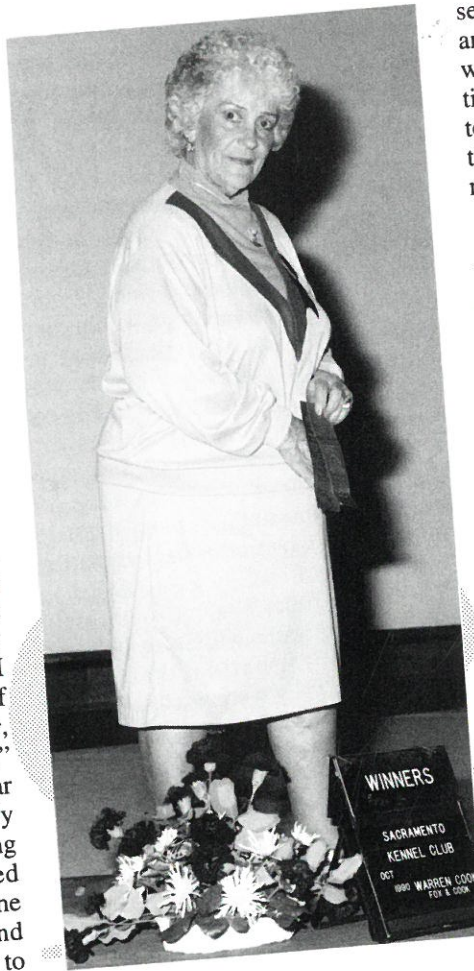
The Samoyed Quarterly
Talks With
Duvella Kusler
VELLEE
Potlatch, Idaho

This interview was conducted at the home of Duvella Kusler in August 1982 by Lori Plampin.

How did you get started in dogs in general, or Sammies in particular?

Well, going back way before Sammies, I have always been a person who was very close to animals; even as a child we had dogs in and around our home, and animals of other sorts.

I kept hearing the name Lila Weir, and we had seen dogs at the shows that she had bred, but we hadn't met her. So I wrote to her and naturally she answered my letter very quickly. I still give Lila a bad time and say, "If you wouldn't have answered my letter, I wouldn't have been in this racket." (laughter) We corresponded for a year or more, I think, before we actually met. She knew that we were traveling to these shows, however, it seemed like the shows that we would go to she would be away somewhere else and we just didn't have the opportunity to meet. She knew that we wanted a show dog and she felt that we definitely were interested or we wouldn't have been going to all these shows without a dog. She finally contacted me and told me of this litter that she knew about that was sired by their Ch. Tod Acres Fang. If I remember correctly, it was a litter of nine with one bitch, and they would sell the puppy bitch to a show home only. So I called the people immediately. It was Valerie Robbins, who lived in Belview, I believe, or just out of Seattle. She said yes, they had planned to keep her, but since we would show her, they did agree to sell her. But after we got there and had driven that far to get her, which was about 300 or more miles, they wouldn't let us down. They didn't tell me this until afterwards. I don't know if I would have had the nerve to take her away from the little boys or not, if they would have told me that. That was our Ch. Saroma's Snow Beauty of Vellee; we called her



"Neena." That was our foundation bitch, so we actually started with her.

What year was that?

This was in 1961, I believe, that we got Neena. In March of 1961, if I'm correct, give or take a few months.

She eventually finished her championship?

Once she was mature, she went zing, zing, zing. She was two and a half years old before she was really ready to start winning. A beautiful moving dog, not really what you would ever call a real pretty dog, not quite the type of head that I desire in a dog, not bad but kind of iffy; nice size bitch, good leg length and could move like nobody's business. I felt that she really did her winning on her movement, which is the thing, really; rather than prettiness, they've got to have that movement. It's funny now when I stop to think back how I kept roaring in the ring with this ugly duckling. I

see that often now when I'm judging, and it reminds me of myself way back when. Lila and I have laughed many times about how she tried to be so nice to me and suggest other people doing these things and all the time she was meaning me.

Who did you breed her to?

She was bred to Joli Kaluna of Vellee. We couldn't seem to find a stud. I relied upon Lila quite a bit for the information and helpful hints of where to go, and eventually they came up with this litter that she suggested, and it did blend in very well. So we got Joli Kaluna of Vellee; we call him "Ruff."

So you got him after Neena?

Yes, after Neena, and we were in a big hurry for him to mature enough to use him at stud because Neena was getting to be three and a half years old.

Where did he come from?

From John and Lila Weir, Joli Kennels. He was out of Kobe's Binki of Encino from Margaret Tucker and Ch. Joli Fang that belonged to the Ross'. He was only nine and a half months when he was used for stud on Neena, and three of that litter of five finished their championship. So I really didn't consider them being inferior puppies.

Did you breed her more than once?

Yes, we bred her three times to him, but the other two litters were never as satisfactory as the first one. I guess this happens quite often and you wonder why. But the first litter was nice. In this litter there was Ch. Vellee's Ready, Ch. Vellee's Kloshe and Ch. Vellee's Chayka, which we had kept ourselves. Vellee's Ready and Vellee's Kloshe were eventually sold in the Midwest.

Chayka finished very quickly though, she matured very young. She didn't last as long. You know how they do, they're kind of over the hill when they're like about four or five years old when they mature so fast. But she did mature, she had a lovely coat and she had bone and an excellent head, showmanship like you can't believe. She was a good winner, she had several Bests of Breed and several Group placements and a Group 1.

took over the handling; when they start winning, I take over. (laughter) I had the opportunity to get away to the shows more often than my husband. He couldn't get away from his work quite as easily as I could. She was a joy to show. We campaigned her in the Northwest quite heavily.

How many litters have you bred?

I think, if I remember correctly, we have only had a total of eleven litters, including three Pom litters. We have never really tried to flood the market. We more or less would breed a litter to keep our own show stock going, and that was about it. We never really went into breeding litter after litter. We tried to be very careful with our breeding program, and I think we did quite well for no more than what we bred. I'm happy with it.

What was your best litter?

The first one with Neena and Ruff... as far as winning, let's put it that way. As far as producing, I think I have to say that the second generation from Neena and Ruff produced better than what the first-generation puppies did.

Were several of those champions bred then?

Yes. Even the second and third generations. Because now out of Chayka we have Ch. Vellee's Silhouette and Vellee's Shadow.

Silhouette had a large litter which she had bad luck with, and we lost all the puppies except those two. Chayka was only bred twice; she was actually bred three times, but the third time she didn't conceive. It was her litter from Ch. Shaloon of Drayalene that produced Silhouette and Shadow. Silhouette was a very nice bitch, she was small, but she was very typey, had a lot of spark and she finished her championship at a very young age. She conned her way through a lot of wins. She was showmanship from the day she was born until the day she died.

From Silhouette was Ch. Vellee's Joli Sparkle of Life, owned by Vicky Vogley, and he has produced very well. That's what I always felt, the grandchildren did more for the breed than what Chayka really did, other than she produced Silhouette, who produced Sparkle.

Who or what has influenced your breeding the most?

To start with, it was definitely Lila Weir. Then, of course, Sandy

Wacenske and I worked together when we were both starting in dogs at the same time. We used to discuss things back and forth together on our breeding programs, or whatever. I would say probably Lila Weir was the most influential in the breeding.

What was your long-range goal?

Best in Show, of course. However, that never happened, but I had a Group I, I was getting close. (laughter)

I know you mentioned you started with linebreeding, how do you feel about inbreeding, linebreeding and outcrossing?

We never really did any inbreeding. I think that once in a while when circumstances prevailed, inbreeding is all right. I certainly wouldn't do it more than one time. If you inbreed one time, then you should go out quite a ways the next time or even possibly outcross. I think inbreeding is all right if you have the qualities in a dog and bitch that you want.

Have you done much outcrossing?

No, we really haven't. Even when we bred Chayka to Impy, which is Shaloon of Drayalene, you see that it still went back to your California line. Kobe and I brought in Drayalene. We did that for a special purpose, we needed some angulation in our dogs, and Impy had this. He was producing it and we got it. That was a good breeding, it was a very good breeding. Chayka was a little straight in stifle, Neena was a little straight in stifle, they moved well. I've heard a lot of people say that a dog that is straight in stifle can't move, but that can be wrong, some can. Because Neena won on her movement and she was quite straight, in fact. The same with Chayka. I've had other people tell me that, and I know it was true. I could see it myself, but I wasn't awfully happy to say they had this. This was exactly the reason that we bred to Shaloon of Drayalene.

I would like you to describe what you feel the ideal conformation of the Sammy is, overall?

Naturally, I feel that the ideal Samoyed is what our standard calls for. I like a Samoyed that is approximately 23 to 23 1/2, maybe even 24 inches at the withers.

What about a female?

Twenty-one and a half, 22 inches.

Chayka was a 22-inch bitch; however, I had several people (I never had a judge) who felt that she was too large. She was a good size bitch, but when it came to winning breed and Group placements, I think you need a larger bitch to compete against the male. Getting back to what I like, I don't want an overly large dog, I don't like a dog with too heavy of bone, to the point where they're going to look chunky. I'd want enough bone so that they'd look like a working dog, that's for sure. I like a good head. I like a small ear, thick, well covered with hair, broad muzzle. I don't care for the longer length of head, as well as I do the shorter, I like it in proportion. However, I'm not going to say that I wouldn't go along with the head of either type, because body has preference over head, as far as I'm concerned.

Now at one time in my life in breeding, I may not have thought this way, but when I started judging, I had to change because I know that the dog doesn't pull the sled or do the work with his head. If they don't have a good body, they're not going to be able to stand up out there. There have been times that I have given the dog Winners, or bitch, whichever the case may be, that maybe I didn't really care for the head, but they would have a body that you just couldn't overlook, and movement. Or they may even have ears that were too large, more than what I prefer, but yet I would overlook that because they had such a lovely body. I definitely feel that this is the way it should be and I think that any breeder or exhibitor and surely any judge would feel the same way. However, there's been a few times that I feel that maybe the prettiest has, not in my particular situation, but other times that I've seen happen, that I think maybe the prettiness of the dog has been overwhelming and that they didn't pay maybe as much attention to the movement. But I feel that the dog should be able to move, because if they can't move, they're not put together properly, and that's all there is to it. The tail carriage, up and over naturally, I don't care for a dog with a low set tail. When I say dog, I'm not talking about the male, per se, but dogs and bitches.

Coatwise, I can go along with the dog that doesn't have all the glam-

orous type coat, as long as the coat is of good quality. I prefer one that has a quantity as well, but I have gone along with dogs that have been partially out of coat; or at least I have placed them, maybe not always giving them the purple ribbon or the Best of Breed ribbon or whatever. I've placed them to let the person know that I do like that dog, because when they're letting it all hang out, you certainly can't miss it. And coat can certainly hide a lot of that. As I said, I prefer a quantity of coat, but quality is really the most important thing.

What about eyes?

I like a dark eye, I can go along with a medium light eye, and perhaps there have been times when I've gone with a dog that maybe had a lighter eye than what I really liked if they had all the other qualifications. I like the almond-shaped eye, definitely. I don't care for the round eye that really takes away from the appearance. It seemed like, for some reason or other, if you see a dog that has a round eye, they really stand out.

How about pigment?

It's more desirable if they have a full pigment, but I'm not against going along with a dog that has broken lip line, unless it is very excessive.

How about snow nose, does that influence you at all?

Not that much, no. It doesn't bother me all that much. They're undesirable, certainly ... cosmetic type of thing. However, our standard doesn't call for it. If I had two dogs of equal quality, then yes, if I had to get down to the nitty-gritty, I would have to penalize the dog with the lighter nose. But it isn't too often that you get one that is so equal that you have to use that as your final decision, at least I haven't.

How about color, does that affect you at all?

It doesn't bother me a bit.

Do you feel that has anything to do with the pigment?

I think that it is very essential that we do have the biscuits. If we had pure white dogs, eventually we would be losing our pigment. I think the white dogs are maybe more eye appealing, but I don't pay a bit of attention as far as biscuit. We've always had a little biscuit in ours. Most all of ours have always carried some biscuit in the head, across the



Ch. Vellees Silhouette.

top of the head and the ears and so forth. Once in a while you'll see some that do have so much biscuit it really deters away from the attraction, but I still wouldn't let it change my thoughts, if it's a good dog, no way would I consider giving it to a dog that wasn't better just because he had more white coat.

Do you think the white is preferred over the biscuit by judges?

Yes, I do. Maybe not breeder-judges. But it doesn't bother me at all, not at all.

How would you describe the ideal temperament of a Samoyed?

I like a very animated dog, I like a pleasant, outgoing temperament. Not a withdrawn dog, shy. In a show ring, I certainly do not like to see a dog that looks like it is hypnotized. I like it standing more carefree and on its own, but animated. I don't want one that's dancing up and down that you can't see all four feet on the ground at one time. But I like an outgoing dog.

Neena, by the way, was a littermate to Saroma's Polar Prince, Peppy, that Martha Beale owned. They were very much alike sizewise. Peppy was a prettier dog than Neena was. I'm

not saying Neena was an ugly dog after she matured, but I can't remember Peppy going through the gangly stage that Neena did. But they were the same type, quality and quantity of coat, not profusely heavy coated, but sufficient, and a very good quality. The movement was a lot alike. I think it was very easy to tell they were littermates. Peppy did a lot of winning and I was always just as pleased as punch when he would win because he was a littermate to Neena. The time Chayka went Best of Opposite Sex from the Puppy class, that day the Best of Breed was Peppy, and he went on to Best in Show that night. So I always bragged a little and said that Chayka was Best of Opposite Sex to the Best in Show dog.

Do you feel the Samoyed Standard is a good one?

Yes, I do. I don't feel that there are a lot of changes to be made. I think maybe there could be a few things that could be clarified. Boning heavier than expected leaves that description rather loose. I don't know just exactly how one would go about clarifying it. Other than saying medium boned or heavy boned. Some peo-

ple may consider a medium-boned dog differently than what I consider a medium-bone dog.

Do you think there should be any disqualifications or any other major changes?

I think probably a size disqualification if anything.

Minimum or maximum?

Both. If I was going to have one, I'd have both. I would say what it is now at 23 1/2 inches. To me, that is an ideal size. If they were going to change it at all, maybe even 23 3/4 inches, but I certainly wouldn't have more than a maximum of 24 inches. I think then they begin to get oversized.

And that's true for bitches as well?

Yes.

Do you think that the larger bitches produce any better?

They may have a little easier time, but I don't know that they produce any better.

Do you feel that Samoyeds should be speialed?

Yes. There's no reason why people shouldn't campaign their bitches. If they have a good bitch, I think they should let the people know that you're proud of it, that she's good and that she should have her recognition the same as the dog. I think that's disproven in many breeds, maybe not only in Samoyeds, because we have had several Samoyed bitches that have done very well for the breed, as well as in the show ring; right at the present time, there are good bitches being campaigned that are doing very well, and I think that they certainly deserve it. I can think of a couple, right off hand, without mentioning names, that are doing very well and they're very nice bitches. Other breeds, look at them, some of the winning that the bitches are doing.

Do you feel that the popularity of the Samoyed has or will hurt the breed in any way? Or do you even feel that they're becoming that popular?

I think they're becoming more and more popular in some areas. However, I think in the Northwest they aren't as popular as they were when we first started. When we were exhibiting dogs, it wasn't unusual to see an entry of 30 or 40, all the time, in the Seattle area I'm talking about. The point system was terrible; to try and get a major because it was very

high. Now it's down, you don't see nearly that many entries. I think they are becoming more popular in the Midwest and the East, of course California has always been very popular. I don't know if you would say they are taking in the nation overall. Every year you see more that are becoming more popular. I think that it could be very detrimental to the breed if they do become too popular. I think the bottom line is to watch your breeding program. I think most people who are really, truly interested in the breed, exhibiting, breeding, whatever, do pay very careful attention to their breeding. They may be like we were when we first started, they learn ... we had to go through a lot of hard knocks, but we were learning. I would imagine that there were people at that time who had been in the breeding program for a number of years, been exhibiting, who thought we were doing some dumb things, but we didn't realize it. I think that this is the way it is now. Maybe people are producing some things that aren't really desirable, but it's because they're new and they may be a little kennel blind. We were kennel blind at times, I know that.

How long have you been judging?

I applied in 1970 and received my provisional shortly after. It was a little different at that time, you didn't have to go through quite as much red tape to become a provisional judge. Of course, you had your questions and answers and you had to qualify in many other respects; as to how long you'd been breeding, the number of litters, your activities and so forth and so on. I was approved as a regular judge in 1972.

How many breeds do you do now?

Eight breeds, one hound breed and seven working dogs.

Do you have aspirations to go on?

Yes, I do. In fact, at the present time, I am eligible to apply for additional breeds. I have been since June, but I've been so busy with judging assignments and several other things that have been going on, I just really haven't had time to fill out all the forms. So I thought why write for the forms until I really have the time to sit down and fill them out. It does take a long time, a lot of research and a lot of concentration to fill these forms out

properly. Also I have a little more homework that I want to do on some of the breeds that I'm going to be applying for. By that I mean you have to have personal contact with breeders of the breeds that you are going to apply for and visit kennels, talk to judges who are already approved for those breeds. There are some of the breeds that I hope to be approved for that I need a little more background on.

Is the one hound breed the Elkhound?

Yes, it is.

Why did you decide to go into judging?

I guess after I finally became so involved in the exhibiting end and I had a friend who was a judge who kept encouraging me to go for it. I had gone to fun matches with her and judged them and she said that she could see that I had an eye for a dog. It was a little push from her and I enjoyed doing the fun matches, section matches, and I felt comfortable doing it. So I thought well, why not give it a shot. I love it, I just thoroughly enjoy every minute of it. I come out of the ring dead tired, but I do enjoy it.

Do you usually have a pretty full day of judging?

As a rule, yes. Even though I only have the eight breeds, the breeds that I do other than Bearded Collies, have good size entries and it's very seldom that I can do all eight breeds in one show. It's usually about four and you'll have your load.

Have you judged all over the United States?

I have been in the Midwest several times and I've been in the Louisiana area. Other than that, it's been mostly the Northwest, California and Oregon.

Have you judged outside the U.S.?

I will be going to Hawaii in September. I'm looking forward to that. I have some nice assignments coming up. I enjoy them all, big - little, whatever, wherever.

Do you find a difference in quality in different areas of the country?

Not really. I think you used to more so than you do now. But people have bred back and forth, from here to there and shipped bitches to studs in all areas. I feel that the quality is pretty much the same all over.

What about a difference between

Canada and the United States?

Pretty much the same. In fact, the majority of the dogs that were there at the show that day I judged were dogs that had been bred to or from the States. They were good quality dogs, well cared for and shown very nicely. I was very impressed with the dogs in Toronto.

Are you happy with the AKC's judging procedures?

Yes. I think that the procedure that they have now for judges making application is far better than the original one. It is much more complicated and more work, but I think it certainly should tell them much more. The personal interviews with the AKC rep give them the opportunity to question us on whatever they like. Also, when we have contact with the breeders, exhibitors, handlers and visit the kennels, you learn from the breeders. How are we to learn otherwise? It used to be, years back, when I first was approved for judging, they didn't want you to visit the kennels and become acquainted with the breeders because they thought there may be a little hanky panky later. But now they insist upon it, which is a smart thing to do. Because they can show you the good things, the bad things, and in their kennels, they usually have dogs that have faults they can point out.

What faults disturb you the most when you're judging?

Cowhocks, toeing in and weak back. Structure is definitely the most important thing.

What sort of faults bother you the least?

Pigmentation, lack of coat, as long as the coat is quality. Then probably I would say head. I want a nice head, but taking it into consideration, I want a better body.

Have you withheld ribbons?

Yes, I have. Very seldom, but I have withheld blue ribbons. Never in Samoyeds. I have in a couple of other breeds, I think only three times. One for extreme shyness and one for lack of merit.

Do you enjoy judging specialty

shows?

Yes, I think so. I haven't really done all that many. I've never done a Sam specialty in the U.S. I did the Canadian Specialty. I'll probably never accept an assignment to do the National Specialty in my own breed.

Why?

I'm going to get in trouble if I answer this ... There is too much antagonism between the exhibitors and breeders, too many cry babies and lack of sportsmanship.

You mentioned earlier that you feel there's a conflict, at least a little bit of a conflict, between judging and exhibiting your own dogs. Did you want to say any more about that?

Yes, I feel that when a person decides to become a judge, maybe perhaps exhibiting a puppy or a class dog very sparingly now and then, I don't think they should campaign a dog heavily. I feel uncomfortable in the ring standing side by side with people I have just recently judged, and I'm sure they don't like it. I know they don't, because I've heard comments about them being in the ring with other judges, and if they're in there with me, they're going to think the same thing. I don't want that to happen. If I own a dog and am going to have it campaigned or exhibited, I think I should put it with someone else and not go in there myself. Because judges know judges, and if you do happen to win, regardless if you did have the best dog in the ring and everyone knew it was the best dog, there's going to be someone who's going to say, "They were on a panel together a month ago," or this or that or whatever. Because the exhibitors, the losers, look for things to complain about. They actually hunt for things to complain about, and as I said, even though they knew it was a better dog than theirs, they would still complain about it. So it's just better if you don't do it.

What all have you done with the SCA?

Up until the time that I was president of the SCA, the only thing I ever

did was read the bulletin. (laughter) Which I think the majority of our membership does. It's really sad that they only do that, because after I became president ... unless you are involved more with the SCA< you certainly do not understand how the club is run; the things that they do and the involvement. Once you're involved in it, I think you become much more interested. I was president two years and I have been on the board, I think, for three years now.

How have the dogs affected your life-style?

I guess they've changed it completely, because all the time we were exhibiting, when we would start to go on vacation, we'd say, "We'll go on vacation where they're having a dog show." This is just a way of life once you become that much involved in them. It's like a family, you have to think of your dogs, who's going to care for them, are you going somewhere where you can take them along. The same as if it were children. We didn't become involved in the dog business until after our children were grown. We've always had dogs. We had the earlier Samoyeds, but I mean as far as showing dogs, we didn't become involved in exhibiting until after the children were gone.

Are most of your friends dog people?

I have both in both walks of life. I owned and operated a restaurant for a number of years and I have a lot of friends there. I would say it's probably half and half. I'm still involved with quite a few other things other than just dogs. I'm a busy type person, I don't like being idle.

What about the drawbacks of being in dogs?

It's time-consuming and confining to a certain extent. It isn't all that confining any longer because we don't have that many. As I said, you have to arrange your life around your dogs if you have a number of them. I wouldn't trade it for anything. •

The Revised Samoyed Standard: 1984

Bill Stanfield
New Orleans, Louisiana

GENERAL CONFORMATION:

(a) General Appearance – The Samoyed, essentially an out-of-work dog since automation, nevertheless should present a picture of beauty, truth, semi-alertness and agility. They should never be too high or low, too long or short, and must be able to walk, trot and run, not necessarily in that order.

(b) Substance – Bone should be substantial, but heavy, heavy bone preferred.

(c) Height – Males 21 to 32 inches, females 19 1/2 to 30 inches. Penalties and heavy fines for any deviation.

(d) Coat – Inner and outer, the more the merrier, with heavy dose of powder.

(e) Color – Pure white, achieved, if necessary, by means of bleaching, dyeing, etc.

MOVEMENT:

(a) Gait – The Samoyed should be able to move by his own means from Point A to Point B, a distance of at least 30 feet, without collapsing in a furry, cuddly heap. Occasional limping is allowed; chronic limping is a suspected fault.

(b) Rear End – Muscles preferred. Should have hocks and stifles and be able to tell where one ends and the other begins. Cowhocks considered slightly naughty and not nice.

(c) Front End – Pasterns can be up or down. Length of leg can vary from 20 percent to 55 percent of the total height at the withers depending on the scissoring job. A very leggy dog is to be deprecated.

(d) Feet – Four are required, preferably one for each leg, accompanied with pads, nails and fur.

HEAD:

(a) Conformation – Wedge, diamond, or rectangular shape and very noticeable to the casual observer.

Muzzle – Very, very broad, whiskers optional.

Stop – Yes.

Lips – Black with impish grin. Smirks are to be severely deprecated.

Ears – Two, medium sized, going up and sometimes out.

Eyes – Two, dark brown preferred over blue. Little Orphan Annie look acceptable. Bitches' eyes should be limpid, languid and seductive.

Nose – Black and can be achieved by dyeing, etc.

Jaws and Teeth – Strong enough to pierce even the toughest judge's skin, in short, an authoritative bite.

(b) Expression – All of the above will achieve the desired effect. Should appear to resemble the intensity of Jane Fonda winning an Oscar.

TORSO:

(a) Neck – Muscle preferred with some arch and should be able to allow head to turn from side to side, or up and down, whichever is preferred.

(b) Chest – Deep and with some indication of possible strength. Females should have an ample one, causing distraction and lust in the

male.

(c) Loin and Back – Muscular preferred. Can range from square to rectangular shape, depending on one's individual tastes.

TAIL:

The tail should be located as near to the rear as possible and should at least flag when the dog moves. Tails can be enhanced with selective chopping. They should curve and hook. A triple hook is a fault.

DISPOSITION:

Varies from conservative to liberal, friendly to nasty, depending on individual desires. Unprovoked aggressiveness not penalized, that being an indication that the dog has spark, and there have been a few big winners of late with real spark.

DISQUALIFICATIONS:

None. •

Getting That Breeding

Jeanne Nonhof
Waldo, Wisconsin

THE first thing you need is a good stud dog ... one with a good pedigree, much above average quality and a freedom from congenital diseases such as hip dysplasia, progressive retinal atrophy, blue eyes, heart problems and vicious temperament. And his ancestors should also exhibit his good qualities. If you don't have this kind of dog, think again about what you are really contributing to the gene pool of your favorite breed of dog.

Your stud dog should be outgoing and bold. No shrinking violet will do. You don't want a Don Knotts, you want a Burt Reynolds.

In addition to the appropriate checks for the above mentioned anomalies, this paragon of virtue should be tested on a regular basis for *Brucella canis*. This is simply a blood test which your "with it" vet can perform in his office. Sometimes, if your

vet isn't with a large clinic, he will have to send the blood sample out to a state lab for the reading, which will take about a week. All bitches sent in to your stud dog should be similarly checked, preferably within a month of breeding. Canine venereal disease you don't need. It can render your stud dog useless and any bitches he serves while infected will also have the disease. There is no known cure for canine brucellosis. For those of you brought up in the "Dairy State," this is the old "Bangs" disease which could wipe out entire dairy herds and put a farmer out of business overnight. It could do the same to your kennel if you are not careful.

Okay. You've got "God's Gift to the Bitches." Now you have to get him known to the owners of those great bitches. No stud dog – unless 100 percent prepotent, and I've never even heard of one of them – can consistently overcome lack of quality in the bitches presented to him. How to get him known? Well, that's a whole

other article. You could spend tons of cold, hard cash on shows, professional handlers and advertising and still not have any bitches sent to your boy if he has a bad reputation among breeders. Being from an obscure line doesn't help either. But consistent and spectacular winning in the show ring will bring him to the attention of the fancy and advertising in your breed magazines will help.

Most breeders want to breed to a dog who is a winner, but more important, one who has proven his ability to produce **QUALITY!** How do you prove this? We're back to that quality bitch again, aren't we? No matter what, it takes two to tango. If you don't have a compatible bitch yourself, lease one if you can. If you get very lucky, someone will send you one after seeing your dog and assessing his qualities for themselves. If you can manage it, take the choice of the litter in lieu of stud fee. You know what your dog produces or at least will be able to make an educated guess from your studies of his background. If you wouldn't want a puppy, don't do the breeding. Don't even consider breeding shy or vicious bitches. This trait is definitely passed on ... genetically and by the mother's actions which the pups imitate. Besides, shy dogs generally are too insecure to make good mothers. We feel, temperamentwise, the dam has a greater influence on the pups than the sire, for she is right there influencing her babies in their formative period.

It is very important to keep your litters together until seven or eight weeks old so that they learn proper doggy social behavior. It will make getting that breeding significantly easier to achieve if he knows the social rules. You wouldn't want him offending some pretty young thing at a crucial moment, now would you?

YOUR future stud dog should not be criticized for mounting behavior when playing with other dogs. He's just practicing and you know what they say, "If it feels good, do it!" If you do discipline him for mounting behavior with other dogs, when the time comes when you want some action from him, he may be disinterested or fearful. You may have to turn him and the bitch loose in a fenced area (not a practice we rec-

ommend) and pretend you're not even looking at him and don't care what he does. Or, you may have to resort to artificial insemination. We have not noted too much success with AI's principally because people only resort to them when things are not going normally, i.e., when there is a problem. If you have to use AI's on a regular basis, you may be contributing to breeding problems in future generations. Mounting behavior towards humans should be corrected.

WE feel it is important to see that a potential stud dog not be intimidated or inhibited by another dog or human, particularly during the ages of five to seven months. He must have libido. Sex isn't simply a physical thing, you know. Even with dogs, the emotions play a large part. Consider how wolves, which are generally accepted as dog's ancestors, frequently allow only the alpha wolves to mate. If a visitor brings an aggressive male to your home when your young fellow is impressionable, put your guy away in a kennel, crate or another room and don't let him be intimidated.

A recent AKC Gazette article says that young males are not sexually mature until nine months of age in toys and twelve to fifteen months in larger breeds. Many giant breeds wait until two years. Sexual maturity is often coincident with leg lifting during urination - the old marking of the territory trick. Most male Samoyeds I have observed will be lifting their legs by six or seven months.

The AKC has special rules for pups sired by a dog who is less than seven months of age or over twelve years old. Litter registration must be accompanied by an affidavit or evidence which shall prove the fact to the satisfaction of the AKC.

If you're offering your dog at public stud, there are a few things which will make the whole process a lot easier all the way around. One of these is a really secure run. Yes, a covered chain link run with dog proof gates and a snug house attached if possible. You are totally responsible for the care and welfare of visiting bitches. It will make life a lot easier around your house if you have a secure kennel to put "precious bitch" in so you don't have to worry about her every minute.

After all, you don't want to keep her crated for a full week or so, do you? You want her to be as comfortable as possible. If she is a house dog, you might even give her house privileges.

If she has special food or medication, you must see that she gets them. You don't want her any more upset than absolutely necessary at this time. After all, she is away from home, doesn't know any of the people around her, and it is at a time in her life when she might be feeling a bit "strange."

It would also be pleasant if you could arrange your job so that you could run to the airport any time of the day or night to pick up those bitches and send them back. Also nice to have a station wagon or van rather than a mini to transport dogs, crates, etc.

It is a good idea when going to the airport to pick up a bitch to take along a lead, some water, a crate (in case the one she's in was rented or damaged) and the name, address and phone number of the bitch's owner. You may want to phone them from the airport to let them know she has arrived safely and is in your possession.

The information you should have from the bitch's owner includes: airline shipped on, flight number, departure time and city, arrival time and city, air waybill number (which they will call you with immediately after she takes off).

If a transfer is planned, the same information is necessary for the second flight. All airline arrival and departure times are listed in local time. For people in the Milwaukee area, I would say avoid transferring in Chicago. It's just too big. Denver, Minneapolis, Cleveland, Detroit, etc. are all smaller and it is less likely for a dog to get "lost" there. It seems almost all flights going west go through Denver, and many eastbound flights touch down in Detroit before continuing on. If the dog is coming in from Canada or Mexico, she will have to be cleared through Customs. No big deal. If possible, have bitches come into your airport early in the day, before the Customs Office closes, or you'll have to pay overtime charges unless you want your girl to stay in her crate overnight and pick her up in the morning. Airline personnel will help you find the Customs people.

AND then, what do you do if you run to the airport to pick up said bitch and she's not there? Immediately give the airline people the air waybill number which the owners will have called you with so they can run a check. We have, with only one exception, found airline personnel to be extremely cooperative and, yes, even concerned, whenever a dog which was scheduled to come in on a specific flight is not there. Let the airlines people do their job; don't go into hysterics. One other thing, call the owners and make double sure that the dog did indeed get on the plane; not that they had a flat tire on the way to the airport and missed the flight and were unable to contact you.

I don't want to scare you about air shipment, because in order to keep the quality of the Samoyed high all over the nation, we are going to have to continue to ship our good bitches to the very best studs for them until flying semen around becomes more useable. Ninety-five percent of air shipments are totally routine. Our dogs have always taken it well without tranquilizers.

There have been occasions when a dog has come into the airport ahead of schedule because the dog caught an earlier plane at the point of transfer. Airlines like to allow an inordinate amount of time to transfer live shipments, so this sometimes happens. In that case, the airline will call you and tell you your dog has arrived. This is another reason to make sure your phone number is included on all communications and shipping labels.

And what do you do if you open the crate and the bitch is not one you would want to breed to your dog? I think every stud dog owner has nightmares about this. You have to let your conscience be your guide in this case. Actually, you are pretty well protected against this kind of thing when you study pedigrees and see pictures of the bitches before they are sent, but it can happen. You might call a person in the "sendee's" part of the country (refer to your SCA list) to inquire about the bitch or the owner's integrity if you have any qualms at all.

Generally, we like to have a bitch in our possession about her eighth day of estrus. This gives her a couple of days to settle down and get acquainted with the male before the breeding.

If the bride arrives in the evening (generally the case, as most owners want to get them off early in the morning), feed and exercise her and keep her crated in the house for the night. Plenty of time for the boys to learn about her in the morning and you just might get a better night's sleep ... and she will, too. It is much easier for her to get the "lay of the land" in the daylight also. We generally allow a bitch to rest for a couple of days in the security kennel and put a friendly, playful bitch next to her or a calm, older bitch if we feel she needs a steady influence.

With Samoyeds, it has been our experience that the twelfth day after the first sign of bloody discharge is the optimum breeding day. BUT, we have gotten productive breeding as early as eight days and as late as sixteen days. Don't get upset if you don't get a breeding on the tenth day. Let Mother Nature take her course. An experienced stud dog is a wonderful thing, for he will definitely tell you when the bitch is ready. An inexperienced dog will go bananas at the very first sign of impending heat. We have seen a number of different types of stud dogs during the last fifteen years or so, and a number of different types of bitches.

We have seen inhibited bitches who kept running to Mama for comfort whenever that "big, nasty dog" came at her. The only way we got this breeding was to remove the owner so the bitch wasn't so inhibited by her presence. Got a totally normal breeding very shortly thereafter.

We have had sexy, experienced bitches who literally threw it in the males' faces. This is the bitch you want for your "maiden" dog. Nobody can teach him better than an experienced older girl when she is feeling sexy. She'll flirt a bit to turn him on and then throw it right at him. He won't be able to help himself. And, of course, when he has accomplished a tie, you're going to tell him what a good, wonderful, great dog he really is.

We've had coy bitches who wanted to play and flirt for hours on end. Let them play for a while. Then, if she won't settle down, you're going to have to hold her so he can get down to business in reasonable safety. Yes, I said safety. You want control over the situation. Both dogs should be on lead

at all times. We have never had to muzzle a bitch, and I doubt that I would breed a bitch who was so unnatural as to fight a breeding that violently. There is something wrong in such a case. Perhaps her hormones aren't working properly and the breeding probably wouldn't take anyway. Or, perhaps, she has an obstruction which makes it painful for her. A maiden bitch can be frightened at this new experience, particularly if she is away from her people, but you should be able to reassure her. You might want to slow your stud dog down a bit if he comes on pretty strong. Make him talk to her a little bit, clean her ears and face (a little love talk) before he jumps on the other end.

We have had bitches who screamed from the first penetration until the tie was broken and bitches who made not a sound. Bitches who drooled buckets and bitches who did little more than pant a bit. Bitches who didn't move an inch through a half hour tie and bitches who wanted to take a stroll around town, dragging the male behind them. Sorry, we couldn't allow that!

WE have gotten breedings in the barn, in the shed, in the kennel, in the (ohmigosh) living room, in the basement, in a motel room, in a camper, in a geodesic dome and outside in the sun in full view of anyone driving past on the road. We wouldn't advise the latter unless you live in a very understanding neighborhood. In the summer, we do our breedings in the cool of the evening or very early morning; in the wonderful Wisconsin winter whenever we can force ourselves to go outside.

In the next issue, we'll deal with the actual physical mating and what goes on. There is more to breeding Samoyeds than throwing two white dogs into a room together at the appropriate time. Think about it!

• • • Getting That Breeding Part II

No, this is not a porno article, but it is time for some plain speaking. All right, you have a bitch who is in standing heat. Here's how we handle it. We put both dogs on lead and head for the garage where the footing is good. Dog and bitch are introduced to one

another. The dog will generally lick the bitch's vulva, thus sexually exciting himself and stimulating the bitch. He will then mount her. His forelegs will clasp her around the middle (waist) and she will hold her tail to the side. The dog will then start thrusting movements. After he penetrates, he will start treading movements with his hind legs while clasping the bitch firmly around the middle. A tie is accomplished when the penis becomes engorged with blood and enlarged inside the bitch's genital tract. After the tie is accomplished, the dog will probably rest for a moment or two while still mounted and will then ease his forequarters off to one side. He will then lift one hind leg over the tie which will place him butt to butt with the bitch.

PROBABLY if you understand how the male dog's penis is constructed, it will be easier for you to understand the way the mating process works with canines. The front part of the dog's penis is composed of erectile tissue ending in a pointed end. Behind this is a rounded bulb also composed of erectile tissue. It is due to the bulb that the phrase known as "the tie" is used. From the bulb, two large veins pass on to the back of the penis, where there also are two muscles near the bulb. What happens is as follows. First, sexual excitement brings the erectile nature of the two parts of the penis into operation. This enables them to negotiate the female passage. Second, sensory frictional nerve impulses induce the ejection of the sperm and seminal fluid at the end of the passage. Third, the muscles referred to above strongly compress the veins mentioned, causing them to become engorged in the bulb. The bulb, when inside the female passage, becomes so congested and swollen as to cause the external structure of the female passage to become completely locked around it, holding him firmly. The bitch assists with the tie by clamping her vagina muscles down also. This swollen condition may continue for periods ranging from twenty minutes to one and a half hours. The general duration of a tie is twenty minutes, and a short or long tie means not a thing as to litter size. It should be further noted that the penis remains entirely flexible during the entire pro-

cess, thus allowing the male to turn during the tie. We will move in on the mating couple at the point of penetration. If the bitch is new at this, or if she is going to jump at any point, this is usually when she does it. Sometimes we will want to help support the bitch's rear end as the stud dog can be heavy. Or, if she wants to turn around, it is nice to have that lead and collar on her so you can control her actions.

Following the breeding, check your stud dog to see that the sheath is again covering the penis. Some people will wash the penis before and after breeding. We tried that, but when our stud dogs saw us coming with the cold solution (purchased from the vet), they sure ran. As we haven't had a real problem with sheath infections, we decided not to look for trouble. However, if you do have that particular problem, it is a good practice. The female is then crated for a half hour to prevent her from urinating and "getting rid of" the sperm. Actually, I don't know if dogs can really do this, and I think it is a left over custom from horse breeders where the mare will actually try this. At any rate, keeping the bitch crated and quiet for a half hour or so after a breeding doesn't hurt a thing and might help.

Now, what can go wrong? Plenty! First of all, the bitch may not be ready to be mated, in which case it is painful for her and she may wish to take your dog's head off. Most dogs will back off in a hurry and let her yell all she wants. You should be able to tell when she is ready by: (a) The color of her discharge. When it gets to be a straw color, she will probably be ready. Not an absolute rule, you understand, but a generalization. (b) The vulva becomes soft rather than swollen and tight. (c) She flirts and flags her tail at the male. Again, this is a generalization, as some bitches will flirt and then, when the male comes on, become very bitchy (I wonder if that's why the word "bitch" has such bad connotations). (d) You can have smears run at the vet's. This is best done with a whole series from the beginning of her season so that the progression from normal to fully cornified cells can be watched. With this method, you can tell when ovulation takes place and optimum breeding days. An experienced stud dog can

tell you the same thing. (e) You can use Tes-tape, available at your local pharmacy. Some people swear by this method. I have never used it, but the principal sounds plausible. It is a good idea to check all maiden bitches for obstructions of the genital tract. This is quite simple with a surgical glove and K-Y Jelly or Vaseline. You simply insert your finger to see if there is any problem. If you find anything unusual, it's off to the vet for a thorough check and a second opinion ... your own might not hold much water with the bitch's owner. I remember one bitch brought in to Ike. Whenever he would start to penetrate, she would yelp, and he, being the gentleman that he is, would get off and lick her ear as if to say, "Oh, honey, did I hurt you?" So ... in to the vet who broke the string-like growth across the tract and we got a breeding right there in the vet's garage within five minutes. I suppose it was painful to Ike, too, when he rammed into that obstruction. I have heard of cases when the bitch definitely was in season when shipped, but upon arrival at the stud dog's home, all signs of heat had disappeared. I have never seen this myself, but in the case I did hear of, the bitch was kept at the stud's home kennel for a week when she came back into season and was successfully mated. Starting out a young dog requires patience. He may look like he is ever so ready as he tries to breed his kennelmates and visiting dogs, but when it comes to the real thing, he may lose his cool. One young fellow we know was actually embarrassed. We had to physically put him in the right position and he carried on from there. He was such a sweet dog that I felt sorry for him because he really was quite embarrassed about the whole thing ... wouldn't look at you. By the time he got his third bitch, he had no problems whatsoever ... didn't give a darn if we were watching or not.

THERE are various types of stud dogs. We have one who comes on like a gangbuster. He knows what the girls are here for and is extremely eager to oblige. Sometimes we have to slow him down a bit. We have another who never seems to be really interested until the bitch is definitely ready ... this guy doesn't want to waste his strength. I remember one

stud dog – a Springer Spaniel – who was so forceful that he would chase the bitch into a corner, where she couldn't get away, and then "have his way with her." He was no gentleman ... but he sure did get the job done. Lucky is the owner who has the kind of dog who is eager. If your stud dog shows little interest in bitches, it is time for a trip to the vet to get him checked out. There may be something physically wrong. Maybe a hormone imbalance or he may be sick.

NOW, there are certain traditions involved with the breeding of dogs. One of the nicest of these is the very pleasant sharing of a glass of wine, brandy or a double Old Fashioned (whatever your favorite poison is) with the bitch's owners after a successful breeding while the dogs are resting ... and toasting the BIS winners and HSDT's sure to result from this fabulous mating. This tradition is very hard to carry on these days with the stud on one coast and the bitch from the Midwest or vice versa. Do you suppose we ought to be sending gift certificates for a beer and a shot to absent bitch owners? Somehow it loses something that way. Also, traditionally, the stud dog is paid for his work if he accomplishes a tie. Let the laborer be worthy of his hire. Another expense for the bitch owner is shipping expenses or, if "hand delivered," driving expenses. With the rise in shipping expenses, stud owners are coming up with various schemes to get that good bitch from out of the area to their stud dogs. Some are reducing rates to out-of-state bitches (I wonder if that is fair to the in-state bitch). Some are prorating their stud fees to the number of puppies produced. Some are picking up part of the shipping fee.

We have felt in the past that the stud fee should be based on the price of a good show quality pup from the litter. We feel a good pup – one who shows all signs of developing into a super show dog – is fairly priced at \$400 to \$500. After all, if the puppy mills can get \$300 for a dog you'd be ashamed to appear in the ring with, you should be able to get \$400 to \$500 for your carefully planned show prospect puppy. You're probably guaranteeing hips and eyes and no disqualifying defects. You have to take

into consideration all of the bucks spent getting the championship on your bitch. OFA X-rays, eye checks, brucellosis checks, stud fees, shipping fees, etc. ... and you're still way behind. Nobody really expects to make big bucks at this avocation, but it would be nice to break somewhere near even, wouldn't it? Now, we do feel that a \$500 stud fee is a bit exorbitant what with the other expenses involved for the bitch owner and have never charged more than \$300. Furthermore, since every bitch we have sent out for breeding has been under the terms of half of the stud fee at the time of breeding and the other half when pups are whelped, we felt this courtesy should be passed on and all bitch owners are offered the option of paying the stud fee under those terms. If no pups should result from the mating, the second half of the stud fee is not paid until return service is given within the bitch's next two seasons. We would like to make that the next season, but many people are not set up to have pups at a certain time of year and this allows them their choice. In addition, we consider two live puppies to be a litter. One pup just doesn't qualify. Of course, these are our opinions, and other stud owners may feel differently. When starting out a young, unproven dog, we have charged \$100 to \$150 for the first time to prove the dog, particularly if he is not yet a champion. Once he is proven and is a champion, we would probably raise it to \$200. Then if the dog proves himself able to sire great pups, you can raise it again. After all, you're not selling a show record, you're selling a producing record, and no matter what a dog has done in the ring – or on the trail – if he can't put good pups on the ground, he's not much of a stud dog. Funny, I have never seen a dog removed from the stud market for siring poor pups. But yes, I have seen good, honest breeders with the breed's best interests at heart withdraw a dog from public stud if he starts siring blue eyes, PRA, heart defects, or any other anomaly thought to be a dominant or simple recessive. Those defects with polygenetic modes of inheritance are a little harder to pinpoint.

One other thing, size of litter has nothing to do with length of tie and depends upon the number of eggs

released by the bitch. Only in rare instances will the male have anything to do with litter size and that would be when his sperm is not up to par. He may be getting old – or may not have been used for a long time. Also, generally speaking, the very first ejaculation a young male has is not viable. There is the theory, apparently well founded, that breeding early will give you more females and breeding late will give you more males in a litter. This seems to work because sperm carrying the female genes have a longer life span than the ones carrying male genes and the male sperm "swim" faster to the egg. Thus, when a bitch is mated early, by the time the eggs are available for fertilization, the male sperm may have died off. When mated later, when ovulation has already taken place, the male sperm swim to the egg and fertilize it faster than the female sperm. Also, the sperm from the male decides what the sex of the pups will be. The bitch has little or nothing to say about it.

When it comes to breeding dogs, stud fees and arrangements are very flexible. WE have had bitches here for over a month before they were due in season, as they were so very hard to catch and were very clean, so the owners never knew just when she came into season. We have had people call us for the first time when their bitches come into season. We have had people call us for the first time when their bitches come into season. Not the best practice, but if it seems like a good breeding, no reason not to go ahead. Just because the owners are procrastinators doesn't mean it won't be a good breeding.

AND this brings up another subject which can be very touchy – refusing bitches. We have only had to refuse six bitches along the way. Two refused to x-ray their bitches, two were definitely pets, one had such a God awful front that I don't think there is a stud dog in the world that could overcome it, and the sixth had a background we were not interested in getting involved with. There may have been more, but those are the ones that come to mind at the moment. Now, everybody loves their dog. You do, and I do. And for someone to tell you your dog just isn't good enough to breed is a blow. You can be

as tactful and struggle as hard as you want for the right words, but the bottom line is still that you don't want to risk your stud dog's reputation and harm the breed by breeding to that particular bitch – and they know it. One way is to suggest that they save the years and years of effort which would be spent in breeding up by buying a good bitch to start with – and breeding up from that starting point. You have to help them. I know that this sounds like preaching – and I'm far from perfect myself – but if the people who have been around for a while don't help them, who will? Who? You can also point out to them that thousands and thousands of dogs are killed or abandoned every year because there aren't enough loving homes for them. And that they are responsible for each life that they bring into the world. That can be an awesome thought.

Now, there are some things you can do for the stud owner. One of these is that when your bitch is sent back to you all happy and contented, it would be very nice if you would let the stud dog owner know that she has arrived safely. You could even thank them for their care and concern for the well-being of your favorite Sammy while she was visiting them. Another

thing, as soon as those pups are on the ground, give the owner of the sire a call and let him know what you have. I don't even care if you call me in the middle of the night, but some stud owners may not care for that. We even appreciate hearing when she starts to look pregnant – or if checked by a veterinarian, we like to know the results of that. The stud owner does not lose interest the minute the breeding is completed. We want to know where the results. We want to know where those pups are going ... the names and addresses of owners and the registered names of the pups. We like to see pictures and will even attempt to tell you what we see as to virtues and faults. We want to know when OFA numbers are achieved; we also want to know when something goes wrong ... if they should get sick, come up dysplastic, get hit by a car. Maybe we can help share the burden. And, best of all, we'd like to share the joy of that first major win, the new championship, the dog that is working well in obedience, or just that the dog and kids are having a wonderful time together.

There is a whole lot more to breeding good dogs than putting a boy dog and a girl dog together at the right time and letting nature take her course.

Samoyed People

The Samoyed Quarterly
Talks With
Bob and Dolly Ward
STARCTIC
Calabasas, California

This interview was conducted by Cynthia Kerstiens in the home of Bob and Dolly Ward in July 1982. Additions and corrections were added in June 1984.

How did you get started in dogs?

Dolly: My husband, Bob, was the one who started it all. Being married in January 1942 after Pearl Harbor meant a year of separation, as Bob was in the Army in the Pacific arena. Then

with the transfer to the States and reassignment to Fort Custer Michigan Military Police School, the travel necessary to "follow orders" took us around a great part of the USA and therefore the opportunity to visit kennels and see dogs all over the country. He took me to the Golden Gate Show in San Francisco in 1943.

The show was benched and we studied every breed but chose the glamorous Samoyed. We obtained the names of Aljean and Agnes Mason, whose entries were on the bench, and made arrangements to visit their kennels in Sacramento. That was before Agnes had named them the White Way Kennels. One visit, some 90 miles

from San Francisco to Sacramento, turned into several visits in our quest to obtain a certain puppy from a particular litter which we liked. It was the famous Herdsman litter, Ch. Herdsman's Chattigan out of Silver Star of White Way. Our puppy became Ch. Starchak CD, winner of 32 Bests of Breed, which, in those days, was a tremendous record. A limited number of nine or ten shows were held on the Pacific Coast with some Group placings, never first, unfortunately.

Also, we wrote to Samoyed breeders in the East, and after more study, selected Helen Harris of the Snowland Kennels, Pennsylvania, to obtain one of her finest bitches by pedigree. She did a lot of winning, she won the first National Specialty held out here in Pasadena in 1947. Anyway, this letter was accompanied by a picture of our Starchak with the comment that we wanted a bitch to match the "quality of Starchak," and that she was to be our foundation bitch. The bitch Helen Harris sent us had a four-generation pedigree on one side and went back to the expedition dogs. She was sired by Ch. Siberian Nansen of Farningham of Snowland, out of Dol of Snowland. Ernest Kanavel was listed as the breeder, because he owned Dol of Snowland. Nansen was twelve years old when he sired this litter, and Nansen's sire was twelve when he sired Nansen, and the grandsire was twelve, so they covered 36 years in three generations. That was in 1944, so it got back to the expedition dogs in a hurry. Perhaps feeling that we did grow up on the original dogs like Anarctic Bru and Buck Polar Light and the pictures in Hutchinsons which you can all find, we are naturalists and feel that the Samoyeds should be no different than they were out of the Arctic except for nutrition and good care.

People ask us if we prefer the bear head or the wolf head, and we say we cannot endure either one because neither one explains the original Samoyed head. Now we believe to designate 40 percent muzzle to the total wedge head is more specific.

Bob worked our dogs on bicycles in harness and with "sled on wheeled rig." At that time, we lived on an oval track near Culver City. He ran them around the mile track which used to be a race track and is now a paved oval street in a residential section.

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Bob and Dolly Ward at their 50th anniversary party put on by Ventura DFA on February 1, 1992, the day after their 50th.

We considered ourselves fortunate, as the years went by, to start with two such excellent examples of the Samoyed breed – the male Starchak and the female, Staryvna of Snowland, known as Chatter and Tog. Ch. Starchak CD would meet Ch. Chinde of Caspar CDX in the ring many times, each having his turn at the win of the day. Mae Pridham trained Chinde in obedience for Lois and Lillian Rayner and handled Chinde for them in breed. It is remarkable to see Mae Pridham still in the ring today after all these years. Chinde was a half brother to Starchak through their mutual dam, Ch. Silver Star of White Way, who looked like our Starctic Aukeo of more recent times.

Pictures of Chat and Chinde show the two different kinds of champions who battled it out graciously in the ring

from about 1944 to 1952. Chinde was more of the English Kobe type and Chatter the English Arctic type. You may notice the body substance differential, as well as head, in these pictures.

Do you think there should be prerequisites for becoming a judge?

Dolly: Bob feels it is well to have more than one champion of the breed you are going to judge because you learn the slight variations and can appreciate the variety and still pick out type for the breed.

We do feel that one of the worst things that is becoming noticeable in the breed today, 1983-84, is that Sams are becoming Chow-like and cobbler with bigger coats. They are unfortunately breeding shorter legs (we still emphasize the need for the standard quoted 55 percent leg from the elbow

to the ground with the measurement taken at the withers). The length of leg is not masked by coat.

Did you do obedience work as well as conformation?

Bob: We did a lot of obedience work, both in the ring and in various activities. In fact, my masters degree in education was written on "The Dog in Obedience." A curriculum on training a dog in obedience, in harness and other activities, such as packing, which we used in part in the coloring book for children authorized as an AWARD Book entitled, "Color Me Puppy."

Our daughters, Mardee and Lindy, took dogs through obedience work to their titles, and one of the Pembroke Welsh Corgis was High in Trial in Las Vegas.

Our girls were also active in "children's handling," which it was called in those days when it was more casual. Today the junior handling is specifically structured and most competitive with finals at the Garden. There is some good and some bad in this progress.

What is your pet peeve in the breed?

Dolly: We would say in unison, BIG BONE. Bone too massive for the dog. Gross, clumsy.

Now, Boloff of Altai was a champion we bought sight unseen from Lucille Miller in Albuquerque from his pedigree and "this picture" in the Bulletin which showed a gorgeous head and expression. When he arrived from the Altai Kennels in New Mexico, he was not at all what we expected. He did contribute well to the breed with his type. He had the right proportions and was neither large nor small. We used to laugh and say, "A 'little' bit of Bo will do it." Only a little bit of Bo in the pedigree of a litter would give you all the pizzazz you needed for a showman.

Bob: Ch. Rainier was bred by Betsy Wyman in Santa Barbara by our Ch. Starchak CD out of her Snowy Dayn, who went back to Vera Lawrence's Lensen of Snowland, and to Ice Crystal of the Arctic, who was at Helen Harris' Snowland Kennels. Raini created history when Dolly handled him to first in Group at the Sun Maid Show under Major Godsol, the first Samoyed in sixteen years to be a Group winner! Raini broke the ice out west then, and it has been uphill ever

since for the breed to place in the Group, until 1983, when Ch. Quicksilver Razz Ma Tazz became Number One Working Dog – Kal-Kan Award.

Did you breed Ch. Starchak and your Ch. Staryvna of Snowland?

Dolly: We did, and this is a picture of their first litter. One was Starchak's Witan, a male, and a bitch, Starchak's Weotuma, called "Missy." Missy was one of the finest bitches we ever bred, and it was a sad loss to our future breeding to have lost her with a virus before she was two years of age. We might have been encouraged to have more litters and pursue the role of the true breeders who concentrate on the bitches if we hadn't lost both Tog and Missy at early ages.

Billy Tucker bred her Rhanor's Tynda of Petsamo to Ch. Starchak, which produced Ch. Kunto of Encino, and with her imported Suretta of Kobe became the foundation stock of her Kobe Kennels in Encino.

In our "W" litter, Starchak's Witgagamote, called "Big Starchy," went to Lloyd Bristol, who, with Princess Startinda from Ernest McNey, became the foundation stock of Bristol's Startinda Kennels and the beginning of her all champion sled team. We had Starchak's Witan, and there were two other males. One, called Starchak's Wigreve ("Little Starchy"), was 22 inches tall and the "spittin' image" of his grandfather, Ch. Herdsman's Chatigan.

The "W" litter, named after English names in LAW, was a most influential group of Sams. They went mostly to potential breeders and took these bloodlines all over the country through Brisols and Tucker and Wards and some others whose names do not come to mind.

We have the practice of taking stud puppies as choice of litter and had probably 25 or so, which is the opposite practice of breeders who plan long-term selections from breeding of their bitches.

Do you have more pet peeves to tell us?

Bob: The double hock is a crippling defect for any breed. It was not discussed in our book, but we have excellent pictures to show for the next. In the Northwest, they brought out the in-depth study of PRA and, rather than keeping it hush-hush, they presented education and clinic research on eye



Ch. Starchak's Witan (Ch. Starchak CD x Ch. Staryvna of Snowland), litterbrother to Lloyd Bristol's Ch. Starchak's Witangamote. Lloyd ran an all champion Sam team from these beginnings. Ch. Staryvna of Snowland was by Ch. Siberian Nansen of Farningham of Snowland (who was bred by Mrs. Ivy Kilburn-Scott Morris) x Dol of Snowland, Snowland Kennels, Pennsylvania, Helen Harris.

anomalies to help the breed. So, some of the pitfalls in breeding are faced along with hip dysplasia.

Do you think education is the responsibility of the local breed clubs?

Dolly: Yes, partly, but the parent club should be the guiding light in directing and disseminating information and providing more seminars. At least they should back up any pro-

grams developed that are worthy contributions made by local specialty clubs.

We have not even touched on our pet peeves of coat, that is the proper type and quality of coat which is so much more important than the quantity of coat. We see that more trimming is being done, and even sculpturing, which was never done in the past.

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Ch. Kara Sea, 1929-1940, sired by Mustan of Farningham. Note correct type head, length of muzzle, grace of body, 22 inches at shoulder. Sent to Wards from Capetown, South Africa too late to be in our revised book, 1984. This is a classic to show original type of Samoyed.

Fundamentally, the Sam has a more double coat with spikey off-standing top coat which is more harsh and the soft woolly undercoat. Never should it be long and flowing or lacy and wavy, descriptive of an open coat, which is untypical. It should be water repellant and not conducive to holding ice formations within the coat. Often we wish the judges would appreciate what type of coat is proper. The Siberian coat called for is soft, but it is water repellent, which is required in northern breeds. It is very sad to see off-type coated Sammies go up anyplace. We don't care how good they are otherwise. This is really OFF-TYPE for the breed.

How many shows do you judge on an average in a year?

Bob: About 35 shows a year. Twelve weekends we ride our Morgan horses with a horse group.

What about the pronunciation and the breed name?

Dolly: Bob researched this at the Russian Department at UCLA, and they accent the last syllable, Sammy-ed, explaining that there is no "o" in the Russian language, from which we take the name of the nomadic tribe using the word "Sammy-ed" for the breed name. They were called Bali-quers, which might have been a good name for the breed, and maybe we could have all said that the same. But as it is, you hear Samoyed pronounced in many ways. We think using the

names of two boys, Sammy and Ed, and accenting the Ed, is as close as we Americans might approximate the sharp, explosive Russian pronunciation.

Another one of our pet peeves about people in the dog game is that many will go to a dog show and watch only the breed. Some will watch until the class is finished. If they lose, they go home. They do not stay to watch anything else at the show or take time to pick anyone else's brain. The number of Sammy people who watch the breed and stay for the Group is a small minority.

How about the early shows?

Dolly: We used to do more driving than flying. Jean Blank with Ch. Yurok of Whitecliff used to put 80,000 miles on a car in a year. She wore out cars, but she and "Rocky," as he was called, were a team, and he was always presented beautifully. Judges began to "look" at the Sams and place them in the Groups. He was one of the first big winners in campaigning and acquired five BIS from countless Group placements in the West.

We have been blessed with knowing many of our founders in the breed, the beginning people. Now Catherine Quereaux - I have to admire her as I think over the years what she really did. Whether you agreed with everything she wrote or not is immaterial. Catherine Quereaux held the Sammy Club together all by herself for twenty

years. She wrote the Bulletin. You didn't advertise in those days, and she wrote it up. She gathered the news, and reprinted everything from all over the country to make people feel they were a part of the bigger scene than just where they lived. The dogs that she imported - Snowland's Stara and Deyomas of Ibur - all these things she wrote up in informational bulletin form, mimeographed. It carried all club business.

It did make a lot of activity in California. We supported shows, had benching, trophies, and we all worked very hard. We started the first Southern California group for the breed. The first Sammy entry of over 100 dogs was in Long Beach in 1950. Bob was show chairman for that, and he had a big banquet and souvenirs, and lots of enthusiasm. That was the show where Verla's Prince Comet, owned by Shirley Hill, the dog that had been given away at a raffle, won the breed, under Chris Knudson, who said after doing over 100 dogs, he never wanted to see another white dog in all his life. This event had come a long way from a specialty that was held in 1929 in Tuxedo Park, when Morgan Wing was the first delegate to the American Kennel Club for the Samoyed Club of America.

Do you think there is a conflict of interest when judges handle their own dogs?

Dolly: Absolutely not. There is a purpose, and I have thought about this subject for some long time. It is debatable, yes, but there are good arguments for showing dogs, not campaigning, but showing dogs, to the championships.

In Australia, England, Europe and the Orient, judges show their own dogs. In England, the breeder-judges are the ones who judge the shows, they are the core of the judging program there. We think the dog game is about breeding good animals, showing them and enjoying them with each other as a social entity.

Did you run your dogs?

Dolly: Yes, it was just a part of everything. We were showing, but racing was just one of the activities the people in those days did.

Bob: I had a team of nine and could run seven at the same speed that did four minutes to the mile. I went up and watched the races in 1948 and

went back to race in 1949. They ran a packed track that was two and a half miles around four times. I guess Dolly disagrees with the premise that the dog must be worked to be built right or to be shown as a working dog. It is nice if you can get out and run the monosled, but it is not practical for most exhibitors; also, it is not practical to keep a dog in show coat and then run him on a sled every weekend. They are going to have their coats torn up. So I would like to make the distinction that I think it is great to go sledding, but I don't think they have to go sledding to be a working dog and to be built properly. Anything that you read of Mel Fishback's (Ryan) will tell you that they're all becoming powder puffs.

Are there reasons that you wouldn't accept a bitch for stud service?

Bob: You bet your life. Painter is twelve in 1982, and he has only sired fourteen litters.

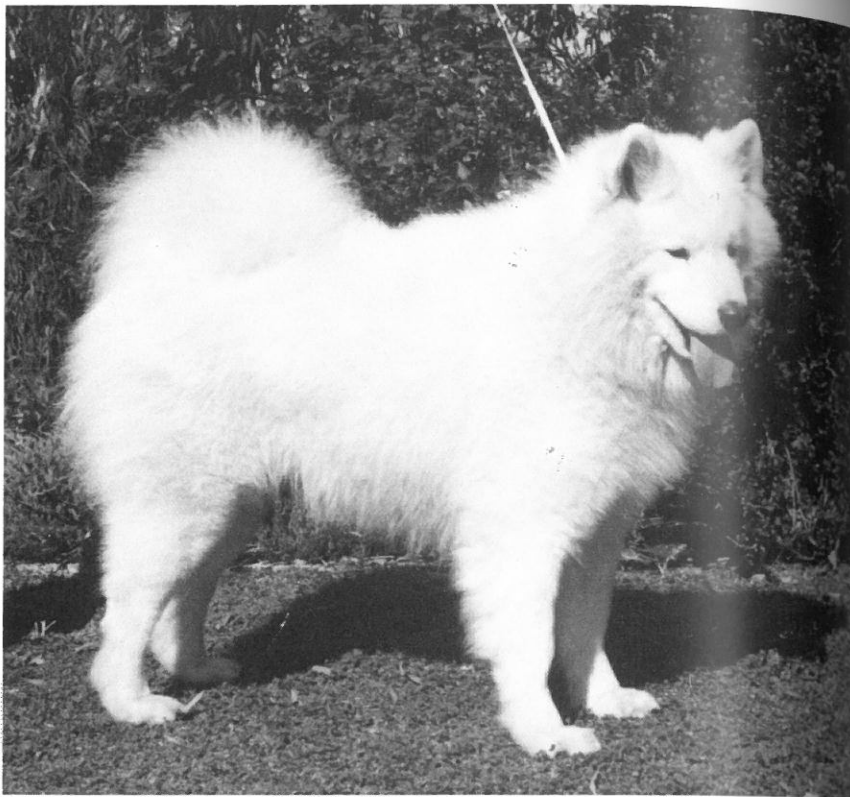
Dolly: First of all, they have to be x-rayed. There must be a brucellosis test and, of course, today we have to worry about PRA. Or if they are poor examples or very faulty in some area, there are many good reasons why we wouldn't breed a bitch that came to us.

If a dog was really outstanding in many ways, are there any faults that would keep you from breeding to it? Any fault that you consider bad enough?

Dolly: To put it succinctly, I would say temperament. Temperament which includes from shyness and reticence to belligerence.

How did you come up with your kennel name?

Dolly: Starctic. Star comes from the name of Starchak's dam, who was Silver Star of White Way. The Arctic, of course, explains itself. Starchak, the last part of the name, "chak," came from his sire's name, Chattigan. The "k" was Starchak's own. So, putting Star with Arctic, we produced the kennel name Starctic, from our first dog Starchak. At one time, only the large kennels who did a lot of breeding had the kennel names, then it became more and more popular for people with one or two dogs, or one or two litters, to choose a kennel name. Now it seems that everybody has a kennel name. Sometimes they choose their kennel name before they get their dog.



*Ch. Kiskas Karaholme Cherokee, called "Pointer."
Imported from Gerald Mitchells, England. Born in 1970.*

Is there any advice you would like to give to people just starting out in the breed?

Dolly: Buy the finest bitch you can get, and probably choose it at a year of age, or thereabouts. Not eight weeks if possible. Of course, this is most difficult. People who have good bitches aren't willing to part with them, either. But you may be lucky and find one, hopefully. The same would apply to a male if you prefer a male for whatever reasons. However, we mention the bitch, because if you were to go into breeding, the bitch is the one to select most carefully. It's true that males are easier to campaign than bitches because of their being in season, losing their coats more often, etc., but if you were going to buy a show dog, you might want to start with a puppy. Just remember that puppies last in that size only a very short time. The worst mistake people can make is to buy a pair so they can have puppies. The first litter from that pair may not be any good, then they have the male that doesn't complement the bitch obviously. So if you have a good bitch, and the first litter is no good

from that, you breed to a different male. Bob started with a male because he wanted a lead dog in the sled team. But later he began to think that the better lead dogs were the bitches.

What about your personal background? How long have you been in this house, hobbies, and so forth?

Dolly: We have two daughters and three grandchildren, one teenage boy and two cute little girls, granddaughters under four years. They are Lindy and Kelly Moore's family. Mardee does the dogs and has our bloodlines to continue. We moved here to Hidden Hills in 1957 to raise our girls in the country, the dogs and our Morgan horses.

How long have you been judging?

Dolly: Bob has been judging since 1954 and I have been judging since 1960.

For some time, Bob and I were the only ones who had Groups and multiple breeds, but now we have been joined by Alyce Seekins and Kathryn Tagliaferri. We welcome them and wish more will continue with multi breeds. An interesting sideline on judging and judges, based on 2,500

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shows, how many judges do you think were determined by computer to have done over 30 shows in a year average? Thirty-four judges. We were glad to be two of the 34. There were 17 and 18 of us who did only two Groups and were doing 35 or 36 shows a year. They only counted the shows in the U.S. We're pleased to go abroad for assignments, some judges won't go overseas. It is a great opportunity to see the dog fancy abroad and have a nice trip, too.

What are some of the advantages and benefits of being in dogs?

Dolly: So many nice memories. You meet a lot of nice people, and there are more nice people in this game than bad people.

What about drawbacks?

Dolly: Any drawbacks are just life, it just comes with life. It is very frustrating to deal with the American

Kennel Club, that is probably a drawback. But not everyone has that drawback. If you compared it to tennis, where you would have to keep running, it would be a little hard as you get older, but in the dog game, the older you get, theoretically, the more you know, and it is a very nice plus. It is not a drawback to get old, because you can keep on doing what you have done, and you are getting better at it.

Bob: Well, if I had spent this much time working in another business, I would have made a lot more money. (laughter) No, you don't make millions, but then what is life all about? I think being happy is important, it isn't always just money.

Do you think it has all been worth it?

Dolly: Yes, absolutely, without hesitation.

Bob: Dolly enjoyed the years in

the Samoyed Club of America, and we were concerned about its reorganization and direction and all of that.

Dolly: Bob was president in 1968 and 1969, and I was president about 1961 and 1962. That has been a good experience, although we don't think it helped us in our judging. We have now joined the new organization that Melbourne Downing helped form, the Senior Judges Conformation Association. We are looking forward to their influence upon the dog fancy, that it be positive and of help to continuing education of those interested in judging the breeds.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

Dolly: (laughing) I can't imagine what it would be. Just love your Samoyeds the way they love you.

Thank you.

Dolly: You are welcome. •

1982

Centerfold

Ch. Rokandi of Drayalene

March 29, 1958 – November 1964

Breeder: Helene Spathold Owners: Helene and Laynard Spathold

Ch. Omak

Ch. Yurok of Whitecliff

Kara Babkah of White Frost

White Frost's Tybo

Ch. Silver Crest's Sikandi

Ch. White Beauty of Lucky Dee

MANY of our top winning dogs stem from Rokandi. He was a large dog for the days he was in the show ring. He was Helene's constant companion – everywhere she went, so did he. He was good with people, and raised many puppies – never hurt one. His temperament was outstanding.

Rokandi produced Ch. Nachalnik of Drayalene, the top producing Samoyed of all time, owned by Harold and Doris McLaughlin. A few of his champions were: Ch. Patrice of Snow Ridge, Ch. Darius King of Snow Ridge, Ch. Bar-ear's Dorka of Drayalene, Ch. Silver Snokandi, Ch. Drayalene's Rocotta of Kauzja, Ch. Nachalnik of Drayalene, Ch. Sun Valley's Now King CD and Ch. Hwit Bera's San Francisco Sam. •

