

THE SAMOYED QUARTERLY

Spring 1994 • \$12



Samoyed People

The Samoyed Quarterly
Talks With
Donna R. Pagel-Yocom
TSIULIKAGTA
Shelton, Washington

Part II

This interview was conducted at the home of Donna R. Pagel-Yocom in July of 1992 by Katie LeCour.

As we don't have too many teeth problems in Sams, what do you feel are the most serious faults in the breed today?

I'd say, by far, too long a loin. Many have too low tailsets and too straight shoulders. I've seen that when I've examined dogs at matches. There's been too much of that. There are an awful lot of dish-shaped chests, and so often it will end up putting the dog's elbows out as they mature. I feel sorry for the owners, because they think if they keep them nice and clean they ought to be able to win with them, but you can't help but feel sorry for those people, because they don't know where to go or what to do or anything, and they don't even know what they are checking.

Do you think our standard is a good standard?

I think it's very workable. Anything can be improved on, but it's very workable. I hated seeing them get rid of certain things in the old standard, mainly the points for heads, because it's almost immediately on the heels of the new standard, the one they have now, and I started seeing so many more poor heads starting to show up in the show ring. Not only poor heads, but ears that are set too close and even the skulls were too narrow. I didn't author it and had nothing to do with the new standard, so I don't know.

If you were rating a dog on a point scale of 100, how many points would you give to the head?

I'd give at least twenty. I feel a lot of judges look at the head first. They are hoping to find a good head and then find a good dog underneath it. (laughter)

And those two don't always go along with each other, do they? (laughter) We haven't talked very much about feet or pasterns in the Samoyed

... That's a matter of nutrition and exercise, mainly, though there are a few cases where splayed feet have come in. Sometimes you can trace a hereditary pattern right where it's coming from, but you don't know where it came from from that point. There are some that I see where I can look

at the pedigree and go back five generations and know right where they got it from. Nutrition is one of the big factors. Some people, when they give vitamin supplements, overdo it because there are some vitamins in the dog's food. But then there are other problems that come along with these various commercial feeds, especially the ones you find in the supermarket that have soy in them. Soy, in itself, is an inhibitor to the dog being able to manufacture its own thyroxin and that fouls up a lot of things, including fertility. A person needs to read labels on dog food. They need to know what it is and not just shop for it anyplace. They have to know what is in that feed. I think a good multiple vitamin, a minimal amount, should be used. I give vitamin C, but I also give 100 units of vitamin E every day. I use the pearls.

With the Sams I have to put it down their throats. With the Norwegian Elkhounds, I just put it in their food and they eat it.

(laughter) That kind doesn't question it, as long as what's in the food pan is edible.

(laughter)

Do you use any other nutritional supplements?

Yes, I use K-Zyme Meal, which is a good multiple vitamin. All of them will get at least a teaspoonful. The bitches that are being bred get a tablespoonful. Of course, puppies are started when they are about ten weeks old getting about a fourth of a teaspoon and then gradually increasing it until when they are six months old they are getting a teaspoonful. You don't want to overdo things, but they still need some supplementation. I've had very good luck with it. I certainly don't quarrel with it. It's so much easier than getting so much calcium from this and so much brewer's yeast from something else. You can get it in a good consistency and K-Zyme is a very good product.

What kind of topline do you like to see in a Sammy?

You want a good, solid one, that's for sure. If you don't have, there is something wrong with the rest of the dog's structure, right straight down the line. Either they are too long in back or the shoulders are wrong. There is something wrong there and you have to find out what it is right quick. A dog that has a soft topline shouldn't be used for reproduction. One of the nice things that AKC has given us is litter slips now that you can sign when you know there is something you shouldn't be perpetuating.

You mentioned that you've judged some matches. Have you done any other judging at all?

Just at matches and sweepstakes for specialties.

Did you ever think about becoming a judge?

I did before I started having trouble with my spine. I sort of have to pace myself in bending over. I do an awful lot of gardening out here and that's going to

have to stop, too. I've spent too many hours standing on my head trying to pick beans and things and that's no good. I pay for it afterwards.

Do you feel that champions should be special?

Yes, if they are really worthy. It depends a lot on the dog's personality. They might be structurally very fine, but they might not be all that happy in the show ring. You have to go with the dog. I know of one dog that would just as soon have lived in the show ring. As long as he could go to a show he was happy.

Does making the Top Ten or Twenty mean anything?

No. I suppose if I didn't have anything to do except spend money it might mean something, but I think there are other aims and goals to be achieved that take priority over that.

Has popularization helped or harmed the Sammy breed?

It can harm any breed. You can overdo that. Jean Brown once said, "You are supposed to keep Sams rare." How rare, is always the question. Nevertheless, you certainly don't want them to get into the category of some of these more popular breeds, like the German Shepherds. They almost ruined the German Shepherds. I wouldn't want to see that happening to Sams. That's a mistake. It's just like these people who breed a bitch every time she comes into season, or at least once a year. My bitches, except on very rare occasions, have always gone eighteen months to two years between litters. They will have one litter and you are supposed to learn from what that bitch has thrown, and you don't go jumping the gun and breeding her again immediately. You are going to find out how the pups are going to turn out and what you should do before you breed her again, what you breed her to. I don't believe in repeat breedings. I don't care for them. I did one once and that was enough. I don't like inbreedings. I like linebreedings and occasionally an outcross. I feel that a perfect pedigree has three grandparents in the line and one out. That gives you a good balance.

Do you feel that judging is fair?

Sometimes. Then there are the inexperienced judges who come along who read the publicity that comes out and you can just about spot them, especially with specials. And you have a handler come along who wants to be sure he lets the judge know who he is showing, so he keeps calling the dog by name, and that kind of a handler ought to have a tin can tied on him. (laughter) There is one up in this area who does it all the time. I like to see a handler that is very professional. A professional would never do something like that.

Do you have a preference as to whether your dogs are shown under an all breed judge or a breeder-judge?

It depends a lot on the judge's experience. There are some all-rounders who can't be beat. They are just excellent. On the other hand, there are some breeder-judges who I think should go back to school and learn how to do it again. (laughter) In fact, I think they should learn how to interpret the standard.

I would think that you have known quite a few judges from many years ago.

I have.

Are there any of them who you remember as particularly great Sammy judges?

Charles Hamilton was one of the best. He was a very fine gentleman. And Izzy Schoenberg was another one. One of the better judges today is Marion Morrison Hoddeson, an exceptionally good judge. She is very knowledgeable. And C. Seaver Smith, Jr. There are some very fine all breed judges around. But you will find that a lot of the newer breeder-judges coming in are only familiar with the criteria that is going on in their own neighborhood. Then, when they get away from their home front, they are almost lost and they are the ones who go with what they see in advertisements and I think that's a big mistake. They should look for soundness and what the standard calls for.

Does advertising influence judges?

It sure does, especially the national one that they publish back in the Midwest.

How do you train puppies and at what age do you begin training them?

I start in with leash training at about three months. If I'm going to keep one, I start in with housebreaking. I don't housebreak the ones I'm not going to keep. It involves a little too much and I'd have to charge too much.

What about fun matches and/or training classes?

I think they are great, not only for the training, but for the socialization.

Have you done obedience work?

Not for many, many years. I haven't been in the obedience ring since 1963.

Have some of the dogs you have sold gone on to obedience?

Oh, yes. A lot of people had families to raise and didn't feel they could afford the entry fees of conformation showing, and they don't keep up with it enough, but they will go ahead and obedience train a dog, take it in for trials and then get its degree. Then there are others who go in for the herding tests and agility and other things. There are different options people have. The main thing is to do something with the dog so he isn't going to go to pot and not be taught anything.

You mentioned that years ago when you had that fire in Denver that one of your dogs was in a crate. Have you always done crate training?

Yes. In fact, when dogs get a bath, that's one of the first times they get introduced to a crate. They get a bath and



Ch. Chu San's Princess Ghajar (out of coat but still BOS over seven bitch specials).

come in and I put towels underneath them and they dry in a crate at room temperature. They learn from that experience, and by the time they've been in for two or three baths they are pretty well adjusted to the crates. During some years here in the Northwest we have quite a bit of rain and a lot of fleas in the summertime. As a result, dogs are coming in for flea baths every couple weeks or so and pretty soon the crate is a second home to the puppy.

I am assuming when you sell a puppy you recommend a crate to the owner?

Yes.

How intelligent are Sams compared to other breeds?

They are super sensitive to people's moods, which has to be intelligence. They react to however the owner is feeling, how the person is emotionally, or if the person is sick. Several years ago, I was having quite a bit of trouble with my heart and for about three days I couldn't get out of bed. Ch. Kenny's Blazer Boy of Caribou CDX lay on the floor in my room and wouldn't even eat. He wouldn't even leave there until I was better. He was absolutely my guardian. I've had so many of them that

know if I'm happy and know if I'm not, and you can see it the way the dogs react when I go out around them. If something is disturbing me, the pack are quiet. Something bugs them if I don't act my usual way. They are very human oriented, and, consequently, very intelligent.

How important is training to winning in conformation?

You are going to have to have the well-trained dog. If you don't, the judge isn't going to be impressed, and they won't do the things he wants done in the way he wants them done. If you haven't trained your dogs sufficiently, for goodness sake, don't put them in Open. Put them in a lower class so they have another chance to be looked at, because they are going to look like a sore thumb otherwise.

Can you give any specific advice to owners who would like to handle their own dogs?

Yes. I have information printed up. I will give them sheets with general instructions. It was written quite a few years ago by a very noted handler, Phyllis Tworuk Greer in California. It's invaluable. I have a copy of that article and give it to all new puppy owners who come. They go home

with it, along with their feeding and grooming instructions and so forth.

How do you feel about some of the dogs winning that are so young versus maturity?

I feel that if it's a very exceptional pup and if it is beyond eight or nine months old, I've seen enough of them that were worthy of majors. In fact, I've seen one recently in Elkhounds that, if I had been the judge, I would have put that one up instead of the one they put up. It was that exceptional. There again, you'd better know what stage of maturity the dog is in, and if they are going to be a real slow maturer, or one of those that wins quickly who are fast maturers. You want to be careful of that because they might end up getting too big, too quick, and when you see them a year or two later, you might not even want to put it up. You'd better know pretty much what their stature is and what their bone is like and so forth. If they have a lot of bone as a young puppy, you have to be careful, because they are going to mature too fast.

Are the pedigrees in the Samoyed breed, from what you've seen, pretty accurate?

I've seen some that were doozies. Some had my dogs behind them, but were so scrambled up that I didn't even recog-

nize them, but I knew who the dogs had to be. Also, there is a fellow running some kind of registry back in Pennsylvania that has down some of my dogs as champions that I feel sure were never even shown. That has bugged me. In fact, I wrote to them that, to the best of my knowledge, such and such dogs had never even been in the show ring. You wonder where they ever get some of that information.

Did the fellow ever reply to you regarding that?

No, no response. The same person wrote to me and told me that the dogs' pedigrees I had imported from England was erroneous and had different parentage. I put two calls in to England, even to the owner of the sire of Laddy, and she just about blew her top because it's her dog this fellow is claiming is different parentage. She said, "I was present at that breeding and I know what dog was there!" (laughter)

When you have a breeding here, are you there to help the breeding along?

Most certainly. I never leave a dog and a bitch together unless I'm out there. Sometimes I'm not inside the run with them, depending on what the temperament of the stud is. Some of them won't work if you are there. I had one that just wanted

me to pet him instead of doing anything he was supposed to do. I watched, and the minute there was a tie, I was inside there. When I had Anoka, he was one of the wild ones who wouldn't breed a bitch except at the crack of dawn's first light. In the wintertime, when there was nothing but snow and ice, I had to be out there around 5:00 in the morning when he decided he was going to breed a bitch, and I couldn't be in the run with him. I had to watch him through the window until he mounted the bitch, and then I had to get out there. He would not breed them as long as it was full daylight. He went back to Gail Matthews, who thought it was poppycock, and she found out real quick. She'd stand behind the curtains and peek to see if he was doing anything. (laughter) He liked privacy but, boy, he got you out early! (laughter)

Are your males available at stud to outside bitches?

The ones I have here now aren't. One is thirteen and Reggie, I'd have to have a sperm check on him, because he hasn't been used in almost four years. But they were available once the hips and eyes were checked out, and providing there wasn't something in the background within three generations that was an alarm to me. If there was something I knew about them that the owner of the bitch didn't know, then I'd just suggest she go back to the breeder to get their advice as to where to go, and handle it that way, because it was something I didn't want to touch.

So, you definitely have refused to service a bitch?

Oh, yes.

That was a tactful way to do it.

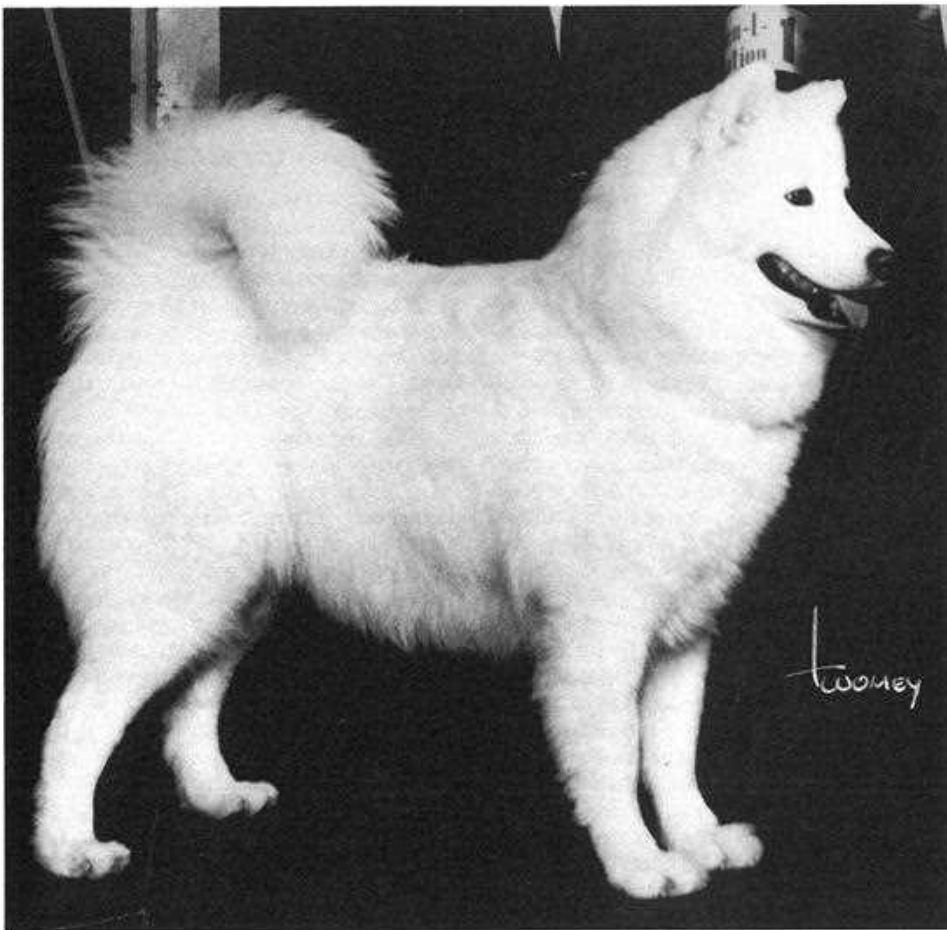
It's the only way you can without stepping on toes. It's much easier that way. The breeder appreciates it without really knowing why, and it gets you off the hook.

How many litters do you feel a bitch should have?

I don't think she should have more than four during her lifetime. Once in a blue moon, if she's had only small litters, maybe two pups, maybe five litters, but, ordinarily, four for a lifetime has been my criteria.

Do you have a cut-off time as far as age is concerned?

Eight years old. I feel they have done enough for me in that length of time. There was one exception and that was with Pepe San, who I leased to Winslows for a breeding when she was past eight, because they wanted to repeat a breeding I had done with her. But that was the only exception. She was retired as far as I was concerned, but they were good friends of mine and I knew they would take good care of her. You have better quality if you space your litters, and if these people who are going to breed every time somebody



Ch. Tsiulikagta's Ketsie.

who requests a pup are going to breed a bitch regardless, that's a mistake, because your quality goes down the tube. That bitch needs to be refurbished, just like when you have a car, you are going to have it serviced. You are going to give it a chance to rest and you are going to straighten things out. An animal is twice as important as something mechanical. You need to give it a chance to rest, regroup and live a little between breedings.

Do you help your bitches whelp?

Yes, they are always whelped in the house. I have two whelping boxes and sometimes I have one with an Elkhound and one with Sams. The Norwegian Elkhound is in the kitchen and the Sam is in my bedroom.

Have you ever had to supplement feed very young puppies?

Yes. There was a litter of Genia Cox's. The bitch was my breeding. She was bred up here and then I whelped her and she had quite a good sized litter. I prefer litters of five. (laughter) She was a daughter of Jim Manley's Snow Bear. When her pups were ten days old, they weren't getting enough milk. They just weren't doing well. She had three of them to be supplemented, right off the bat, that I had to start in with bottle feeding. I used the old Swedish formula and it works like a charm. I don't use any commercial formulas. By the time the pups were three weeks old, she had almost completely dried up. She just didn't have milk. By that time, of course, I was able to start pan feeding them, but there were two smaller ones that I still kept on bottle feeding for quite some while, along with pan feeding, because the bigger pups just kind of pushed them aside. They ended up all doing just fine. I've had others that, by the time they were three weeks old, they needed other supplementation than just pan feeding, so I gave them formula at least once a day. I put it in their dish and it gives them quite a boost.

What is the old Swedish formula?

It was devised by two Swedish vets. You use two cups of evaporated milk, two cups of water, one cup of half and half and the yolk of one egg, which you strain, and that's it. They say that most nearly approximates bitch's milk than any other formula, and I have used that formula for almost 30 years, and I've given it to other people, even other breeds.

You mentioned that you started really young puppies on vitamin C. Is that in liquid form?

No, it's powdered and water soluble, and you use a level teaspoon and a half to an ounce of water in a bottle and start the pups off with five drops on their tongue every morning. I have a blue logging crayon, like a chalk, and I put a blue mark on top of their heads so I don't give it to the same one twice. (laughter) They get that



Ch. Chu San's Silver Folly and Michael Yocom, April 1964.

every morning up until they are seven or eight weeks old when I put it into their food. At that time, they are up to ten drops and they are ready for 500 milligrams which is an eighth of a teaspoon.

Do you wean the puppies or let mama do it?

I start taking them off the bitch at five weeks. By the time they are five and a half weeks old, I have them off the bitch. I want to be able to start giving them their shots within three weeks of when they are off her. With parvo as prevalent as it is in

this day and age, I always want to give the DHLPP first. I've got to get it started and you have to get them away from their maternal antibodies if you are going to get them ready for their shots and be able to have them ready to go. Every pup that leaves here has had at least two parvo shots and one DHLPP and one corona before they ever leave here. Usually, they have both DHLPP's and three parvo shots and two coronas before they leave here, because I don't let any pup go until they



Ch. Tsiulikagta's Kabloona (Eng/Am/Can Ch. Debmonte This Is It x Ch. Tsiulikagta's Sa-Kie-Ste-Wa).

are ten and a half weeks and usually eleven. That way, I'm sure what the quality of the pup is going to be. They change a lot between the seventh and tenth weeks. While I bought Ghajar at seven weeks old, I would never buy another pup that young. I took a chance on it, but I was unknawing at that time, and I was lucky. I won't evaluate anybody else's pups before they are ten weeks old, and I won't evaluate my own then. If people want one from me they are going to wait until they are ready to go.

How do you screen your puppy buyers?

Most of my puppy buyers are contacts through shows. The majority of them are people who have known somebody else who has known my dogs. I've had two exceptions to that in the last ten years. They have been absolute headaches. In one case, I had to repossess the dog, and in the other case, the fellow claimed the pup got stolen and I was never able to collect from him. I sent his name to the collectors, but they haven't been able to get anything from him, because they transferred everything into his girl friend's name. (laughter) I don't know if she was stolen or what he'd done with it. Generally, I've been very fortunate in that respect.

When do you evaluate your puppies for pet/show quality and what are you looking for?

I'm looking for the same conformation that I want in the adult later on. I go over

them for the same reason. It has to do with structure, with movement, with personality, etc. Sometimes I'll waver between two that are very close but by the time the eleventh week comes up, I know which is the better of the two. That's how it goes.

Do you sell your puppies on spay/neuter agreements?

I haven't done that because I haven't needed to. With males, people say they want them as a pet, and all you have to do now is sign this form and they can't be using them for breeding anyhow and can't register them. In recent years I haven't had that many bitches in the litters. I had one litter that had quite a few bitches, but they are few and far between. There have been an awful lot of litters that have had only one or two bitches in the litter. Many times the people who come have told me they are going to spay the bitch and there is no point in carrying it further.

Have you ever gotten puppies back when you've sold a bitch?

Yes, occasionally, when I have a contract or else I've done it on a dog that I want a stud service back from. There is a contract to go with it that says such and such a price plus one productive stud service. I sold an Elkhound bitch not too long ago where I remained the co-owner. When the time came that she had cleared the X-ray and was ready to be bred, I'd

pay half the stud fee and half the shipping charges and I'd claim two pups. I got a call last week and this fellow has a job offer in Denver and wants to go ahead and buy her outright. The money hasn't shown up yet. We'll see if it does and, until then, I have a contract on it.

Have you had problems with co-ownerships in the past?

No, not with co-ownerships. I have three Elkhounds on co-ownership with people and haven't had any problems at all.

Have you ever had any problems with shipping dogs or bitches?

The only problem I ever had was with one dog several years ago that I was shipping from Albuquerque to Dallas. It was before Texas International went out of business. They went over to Continental or bought Continental or something and the dog ended up out here in Sea-Tac. Everybody was frantic. Nobody knew where that little pup was. I never shipped with them again. (laughter)

Have you ever used artificial insemination in your breeding program?

I have never had one bitch ever conceive from AI's, and I've tried several of them. So help me Hannah, as far as I was concerned, it was money down the tube. Then I had an experience with this chilled semen thing and I ended up with \$525 worth of receipts and that was it! Nothing else. The people offered to give me a return service of \$100 on their part of it instead of the \$300 fee, which was stud service, the kit alone and the collection of it was \$200, then the airline charges, because it had to come in on a very special express thing, which was another \$56. Then the vet down here, the only one who would do the insemination, had to be done at 9:00 at night. We only had so many hours on the darned thing and she charged me \$65 for doing that and all I had was receipts! (laughter) No pups. I'm not going that route again. In checking the things out, I found that only about five percent are takes on that system, and of that five percent very few have more than a one-pup litter. Why spend that kind of money and get nothing or get only one pup? It has too many bugs in it yet.

How long is a breeder responsible for a puppy he/she sells?

I have different guarantees, one for pets and one for show quality. For show quality, most things go to age four years and on pet quality, two years. With pet quality, I guarantee the hips, but I don't guarantee anything beyond the hips.

We've already talked about nutrition quite a bit, but what dog food do you feed?

I feed Pro Dog, which I get from a woman in Ft. Collins, Colorado. The actual factory is in extreme northeast Kansas, straight south of Omaha. But there is a

breeder in Ft. Collins who formulated this food and I like it very much. I've fed it now for four years, and the dogs have done very well with it. I never have any loose stools or anything. Everything is always very consistent. I use Pro Dog 27, which is 27 percent protein, and I certainly don't have any quarrel with it. I would have fed Show Results, but they were going to charge me so much to bring it up from Portland, plus the fact that they wouldn't deliver less than 1,500 pounds and I didn't have storage for 1,500 pounds. The limit I can take is about 600 pounds in my storage area. I went in to Steve Butchko at a show and was going through his stuff, and the ingredients dovetailed very closely with Show Results, so I went with that. The first time I got it I crossed my fingers and just hoped and I was very pleased with it.

How else do you condition your dogs besides the steps you told us about?

I exercise them on leash. Vai, the thirteen-year-old, goes around the circular drive and then is ready to go back up the steps. He has trouble getting up the steps anymore. But the main thing he wants to go for a walk for is, I make these liver bars, which are like the dog bones you buy only mine have a lot more stuff in them. There are all different grains, and I boil liver and crumble it into it, along with garlic. When I make the doggone things, I make about 150 at a time and I spend four hours baking. I always have one in my pocket, and the minute he gets off his leash he looks right at my pocket until I get that treat out.

This might be a good time to explain your kennel setup for people who can't see what it looks like.

The runs are 25 feet long and were supposed to be set up for about 5 to 6 feet wide, but they are kind of variable. Some of them are 10 feet wide and one of them is 20 feet wide. We had to cut down trees to make space, the rains were ready to start and everything had to be done in kind of a hurry. The Elkhounds have longer runs. Theirs run out about 35 feet. Then I have a shed-type shelter, and inside the shelters, each kennel has its dog houses. All of the Sams have got dog houses, which they can get up on top of to eat, or they can get inside if they want, and, of course, there is ample lie down space in front of them. I don't have concrete runs, but I have dirt runs with sawdust or cedar shavings. When it gets closer to fall, it's cedar shavings, but it's cedar sawdust at the moment. That helps keep them clean as well as being a flea deterrent. Of course, each one has its own water bucket, which is on a chain attached to the fence. It's pretty much of a simple run. I don't have chain link, I have horse fencing, which is two by four tied wire, tied to the corners. I've had more success with it than I've had with

chain link. I've never had an injured dog, not on the ear or anything, since I've had this horse fencing. It's supposedly non-climbable, but I had one bitch that could climb it. But it's done very well, because they can't get their noses through it. It's two inches wide, you see, and four inches high, these openings, and a Sam that has a proper muzzle can't possibly get his nose through that space. They are practically foolproof, and they are strong enough that the dogs can jump against them, but they don't break the wire.

I had one little character that came out here, the Genia bitch, and you could not keep her in a run. At Genia's, she'd climb a six-foot fence, go over the top and come down on concrete, and she even got a green stick fracture in one hip. When she got here, at first I put her in the third run over in the Sams and pretty soon she wasn't in that run anymore, but she was in the next one. After a while she wasn't in that run anymore, she was in with Vai, and I thought Vai would keep her company. Pretty soon, Vai was looking for her and she wasn't there. (laughter) She was at my back door and wanted in the house.



Ch. Tsiulikagta's Nanuq.

She'd go right over a six-foot fence and drop down. That's Kyta's mother. She went over to Marge Wilsey's at Wenatchee and Marge had an eight-foot fence and said, "Well, this will keep her in." She heard something at the front door and opened it and there she was! (laughter) She had to electrify her run and now she



Tsiulikagta's Vai Manonoah Tal.

knows not to try to jump it. When Genie sent her up here she said she wouldn't go anyplace, but we live so close to the road that it made me nervous. She was a little character! But I put her over at Margie's.

What advice might you give to other breeders who are just starting out?

Go very slow. I would suggest they get a bitch first, unless they just want a pet, in which case get a male. Don't have any thought of breeding your bitch until she is past two years old and has had her hips and eyes checked. Then do some very serious researching on males to see what might blend with her pedigree and go back to the breeder and get their advice on how they think would be a wise way to breed her.

Would you recommend they join a local breed club, the national club or an all breed club?

They are good. The ones we have here in Washington state disseminate a lot of very helpful information. They put out a newsletter every month and it has some very helpful things in it. Up in Canada, there is *Sammy News*, which is put out by their national club and has a tremendous amount of information in it. I joined that because I really enjoy it. It's not as statistical as our bulletin, but it has more down to earth things that helps you with everyday problems. I really like it.

Are you a member of the Washington club and the national club, and have you held any offices in the clubs?

Yes. A few years ago, I had a little bit too much. With the Pacific Coast one I was president. In 1964, when the specialty came along, Jean Brown was to be the chairman and she got sick so I ended up chairing the thing. I had offered to do trophies, but the person who was in charge of advertising got two ads. I was doing private duty and had to leave home about 10:00 in the morning, and I didn't have to be at work until about quarter till three, and went out to get ads for the thing to get going. The person in charge of hospitality was supposed to have met the judges as well as arrange for the dinner, and I ended up having to do everything for the dinner. I just about worked myself silly between trophies and everything else, and then only about a third of the pledged donations for trophies came through, and so that came out of my pocket. (laughter) Before we got done, it was a bit of an experience. I enjoyed it but it taught me a lot too.

Have you attended the national specialties?

Yes. I went to three. The first one was when they had it out here at Renton in 1965, and I've been to two or three in Colorado, but I haven't been elsewhere. I've sent dogs to them, but I haven't attended.

I know you don't show the dogs yourself now, but do you try to attend dog shows?

Oh, sure. I get quite a few in.

Do you think our parent club does enough to



Ch. Tsiulikagta's Kyta.

educate judges and new members?

I don't belong to a kennel club here at the moment. They have a kind of closed door policy at the one that is closest here at Olympia. I don't know when they take new members in, when somebody dies or what, but they just don't. It's too far to go to the others. I always enjoyed my association when I was a member of the Colorado club. I belong to the Puget Sound Elkhound Club. I have enough contacts between the two breeds and pretty well keep up with things.

I was referring also to SCA. Do you think they are doing enough to promote education for members and judges?

I think sometimes it gets a little too technical, especially for novices to assimilate. A few years ago, it was more like the Canadian club and you could assimilate what was in it better. For the novice, I think it is a bit much.

Do you think there are enough books and magazines in the Samoyed breed?

There are some fairly good all breed magazines that are out that kind of act as a buffer between. A few years ago, there was one started out in California that was more like the *Norsk Elghund* they had for Elkhounds back on the East Coast. I found that quite helpful for novices. There doesn't seem to be anything like that coming out now that I am familiar with. While

the *Gazette* occasionally comes out with something for Sams, it's not very often. There is not enough in the Sam column that helps me a whole lot, because it's too brief, and, of course, they have a space limitation, I am sure, which accounts for it.

Let's do some closing personal background. How long have you lived here in Shelton?

Ten years. I lived out here as a young woman until 1954. I was in Denver for a year in 1950-1951 and came back. At that time, I was having some problems with getting my nurse's registration in Colorado. They had a registrar there that had the idea that everybody had to have a degree in order to register. They changed politics, and when I went back in 1954, I didn't have any problems. I was already registered in three states besides. I was in Colorado ten years the last time, and came back to Washington for a year in 1965. I left in February of 1966 and went to New Mexico, and except for the short time I was in Port Angeles, Washington, I spent the rest of the time in New Mexico and then came back out here. My parents died. As long as they lived, I stayed in New Mexico, because I couldn't handle the Nebraska climate. I had asthma too badly then, but I could get there very fast on a plane if I needed to go. After my mother died, there wasn't much point in staying there, because my in-laws were out here

and my daughter lives at Port Orchard. Of course, my youngest son is in Alaska.

Did you find that your nursing career helped you in the dogs?

Yes, except for one thing. I always figured I would have been smarter if I'd had dogs first and then had my kids. I would have made a much better mother, because I would have known when they were trying to con me on something, and by having my kids first, you couldn't see the forest for the trees, sometimes. But I'd have been a much wiser mother and a much better one all the way around if I'd had dogs first. The dogs teach you a lot. They will try to con you, too, but you spot that. (laughter)

When did you retire from your nursing career?

When I had a heart attack. That retired me. That was in 1969.

For people who don't know you, would you mind telling how old you are?

I'll be 79 next February.

I just want everybody to know, because you take care of your dogs and do a splendid job. That's amazing.

I know. I find women in retirement centers and women in apartments who are even afraid to get out and exercise. Then they find out that I'm outdoors about five hours every day working. I have a heck of a time getting my housework done sometimes. I get dishes washed, the meals fixed and the beds are always made, but a lot of the rest of it doesn't get done because I'm outdoors. I raise a good sized vegetable garden. In fact, this evening yet I'm going to be working with a bunch of beans that I picked yesterday. I made twelve pints of Tayberry jam, ten pints of pineapple-raspberry jam, I've put nine quarts of strawberries in the freezer so far, and I have about three gallons of Tayberries in the freezer in different sized containers. The day you called me, I canned 26 quarts of apricots. (laughter) With that, on top of the dogs, it kind of keeps me going.

Sakura: And she makes a mean pizza.

I don't use the jam so much myself, but it's something I have to give to people at Christmastime. Then I have a bunch of chili peppers brought over and make salsa. I think it's very good salsa. I'll give you a jar and you can take it home with you.

I'll love you forever. That sounds wonderful. Are your children involved at all with the dogs?

My daughter has one of my Elkhounds, but he's just a pet that's been neutered. She also has a Sheltie that she's neutered. They are her buddies. Her husband is a foreman at the Navy yard. In fact, one of her sons is also. They have a motor home and travel quite a bit. Whenever he has some time off, they take off and the dogs go with them. The dogs are well traveled. They have some property

down in The Baja in Old Mexico. They go down there, and, of course, other trips. His parents live in the Las Vegas area, and they do a lot of traveling with their dogs. But Pat also does a lot of gardening. She is 54 this year. I wish she wouldn't do quite so much. I think she is following in my footsteps more than she realizes. (laughter)

And the grandchildren aren't dog showers either?

My daughter's children are all grown and she has two grandchildren. One of her daughters married very young. I have two great granddaughters there and I have three younger grandchildren in Alaska. They are four, nine and twelve. I haven't seen the youngest one yet. I have a lot of step grandchildren. Altogether, I think I have about eighteen. Trying to keep up with birthdays and whatnot, it keeps you on the jump. (laughter)

How have dogs affected your lifestyle?

I think they have probably contributed to keeping me as fit as I am, not that I'm very fit anymore. I'm pretty slow now. But I certainly haven't gotten into a rut like the people who don't have dogs or something to keep them going. While I have a lot of very fine friends who are older people, the vast majority of my friends are in their 30's and 40's. They keep your thinking young. If I didn't have dogs and have this rapport with these people, I might get pretty much in a rut. Any of us can get rusty, but they help keep me alert. Now I need to get a hearing aid so I can hear people better! (laughter)

I think you do pretty well. What do you feel have been the benefits of being in dogs?

I don't know how I would gauge that exactly. It keeps your viewpoint clear and you've always got a goal to reach. There is always a challenge coming up to be met, and, perhaps, that gets you out of a rut that you might get into otherwise. That it keeps you mentally challenged is one of the greatest benefits, undoubtedly.

Can you think of anything offhand that we haven't covered, any dogs you didn't mention, or anything else you would like to add?

I think I can thank God for some of the early breeders and the foresight they had in breeding what they bred, like Agnes Mason and Jean Blank with her White Cliff dogs. They gave me the challenge to achieve something. If we hadn't had the earlier people who marked the pathway we might have messed the breed up pretty badly.

I think you've contributed a lot also.

What I've done I've done with help, like the help I mentioned from Cliff Collins. He's absolutely aces high. I can never thank the man enough for what he did for me.

Is there anything else you would like to mention?

For many years I tried to breed another

er Ghajar and it didn't happen, but I did get Aput who is probably closer to Ch. Chu San's Silver Folly. Chu San was my foundation stud. He was the forerunner of much and his genes are found in certain other lines, too. After my house burned, he spent his last years at the Wagenskies, so I know he contributed there, too.

I'm sure there are stories you have to tell that we haven't even touched on, so if you think of anything else you can always add it when the transcript comes back. Thanks for letting me come and do this. It's been wonderful. And I also want to thank Sakura for coming along to help.

I couldn't have remembered some of those names without her help.

But you're sharp.

(laughter) I forget people's names, but if I hear a dog's name I can immediately visualize them, and I know especially what they did coming at me in front. Fronts have been a pet peeve with me for so many years. I could never remember the dog's name, but I could always remember the front and when I heard the dog's name I could put the rest of the picture together.

Thank you very much, Donna. I've really enjoyed it.

How would you like a piece of pie? I have a nice, fresh rhubarb pie.

You twisted my arm. (laughter) •

**NEXT TIME
WE'LL PRESENT
AN INTERVIEW
WITH ROBERT
AND
WANDA KRAUS
OF K-WAY.
THE ADVERTISING
DEADLINE IS
MAY 1,
SO DON'T
MISS OUT!**