

NEW ZEALAND KENNEL GAZETTE

Samoyed Feature Page 81



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This Journal is the Official organ of the New Zealand Kennel Club, and is published by Authority of the New Zealand Kennel Club (Incorporated) by the New Zealand Kennel Gazette Ltd., Porirua. Phototypesetting by Wellington Newspapers Ltd (Photocomposition Services) and printing by Lucas Print Ltd., (Paraparaumu).

All editorial and literary contributions, show results, club news, etc., should be addressed to the Editor, N.Z. Kennel Gazette, Private Bag, Porirua, and must reach him before the 1st of the month preceding publication.

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EDITORIAL

'It Pays to Advertise'

The ethics of advertising is a subject which can generate a good deal of heated argument - both for and against. On the one hand the professionals ' would have us believe that the very wheels of commerce would grind to a halt without it, while on the other hand we know of those persons so averse to what they see as the inconsequential banality of most television advertising, that they refuse to purchase any product advertised on this medium. Two extreme points of view. As is usual however in such cases, the true picture probably emerges somewhere in between. There is no doubt that apart from advertising's most obvious benefit of bringing to the attention of a wider public the availability of goods or services that they may otherwise have remained unaware of, there is the fact that many publications in which advertising appears, depend for their very existence on such advertising support. Regular readers will be aware that the 'Gazette' has benefited from the regular support, over many years, of producers and marketers of various dog-related goods and services. Likewise, there are those N Z K C members who support the Breeder's Directory and other classified sections in our magazine, as well as those who from time to time insert larger display advertisements.

Considering that, by any standards, the 'Gazette' advertising rates are extremely reasonable for a publication of this circulation size, it is somewhat surprising that more of our members do not take advantage of our pages to publicise their breeding and showing achievements. Some folk, of course, have a reluctance to "blow their own trumpet" as it were, and are perhaps concerned (in our egalitarian society) that they are not thought to be "showing-off". They need have no such fears. There can be no objection to tasteful, factual advertising, that does not use undue superlative, nor make unfounded and misleading claims. Those who have spent any time at all in the dog world will soon realise that a dog advertised, for instance, as a "multiple in-Show winner" without any qualification of such claim, need only have been the sole entrant in Novice Class (or some such) at a couple of small specialist or open shows, for this statement to be true in substance and yet tell us absolutely nothing about the quality of the dog. Such advertising tactics, we believe, are soon seen through, and probably tend to throw doubt on any other - maybe even better founded - claims made in the same advertisement. Thus, overblown, and exaggerated advertising tends to be self-defeating, and we do not believe that too many readers would be deceived by it for long. This is too small a country in which to succeed in fooling "all the people, all the time"!

Advertising therefore, has a useful part to play in the dog-related world, as in the wider world. We are kept aware of what new products and services are available to us, and we are kept informed on what is happening in our own and other breeds. If we exhibit, we are kept up-to-date with the dogs to watch out for in the general specials line-ups! As long as advertising here does not descend to the blatant judge directed kind of thing that unfortunately seems to be accepted in some other countries we will not have too much to worry about.

Heaven forbid that we should ever get to the stage of bombarding our judges with unsolicited, large colour photographs of every dog that has ever won a class - as happens we understand in one success-oriented overseas country. The performance of the dog itself in the ring is its own best advertisement, and a truly good specimen should need no such desperate activity on its behalf to succeed.

COVER DOG — CH. KIMCHATKA ACHILLES w 2/10/80 NZKC Puppy of the Year 1981 SIRE Whitewisp Arrogance (Eng) DAM: Novaskaya Tsarina Lafay (Imp. UK) Imported from the UK in dam and whelped in quarantine. Owned and bred by Trevor A.R. and Eleanor B. MAITLAND 21 Menzies Place, Paeroa, New Zealand

Origin and History of the Breed

by Val Auckram

According to the Genealogy of the Dog, the Samoyed Breed is one of the very early species of the Canis Familiaris Intermedius Group said to date back to approximately 6000 B.C.

The specific area of origin will probably be forever in conjecture, some authorities assigning it to the territory from the White Sea to the Yenisey River, others to the tundra region between the White Sea and the Kara Sea.

The nomadic Samoyede people were a large unit of clans who lived by hunting and fishing, inter-married, shared hunting rights, pastures and livestock, and for the greater part of the year were scattered singly or in small groups, coming together in the summer. Their dogs were used mainly for reindeer herding and Polar bear hunting, were very domesticated and lived closely with the people. Their moulting coats were a valuable contribution towards warm clothing, and at times they were used to eke out the food supply.

Samoyeds are known to have been used as sled dogs in Siberia as early as 1870 by Nordenskiöld, and on Arctic Expeditions by Nansen (1893-4), Jackson-Harmsworth (1894) and later the Duke of Abruzzi and others. It is recorded that over 100 miles have been covered in one day by three dogs with full sledge - an astonishing record when the rough state of the going is considered, for the snow does not lie like smooth hard icing. (That notable and courageous New Zealander, the late Peter Mulgrew, once told me that the difference in snow texture between the Arctic and Antarctic made the work of sled teams much more difficult in the South than in the North.)

In 1889 Mr Kilburn-Scott (A.M. Inst. C.E.), a passenger aboard the S.S. Sunlight, during the loading of timber at Archangel on the White Sea, became interested in some Eskimo-type men eating raw fish. He was informed they were of the Samoyede tribe and that they had an encampment on the nearby tundra and he, with a Russian friend, went to make acquaintance with this ancient people. Many dogs were running about and when Mr Kilburn-Scott picked up a particularly attractive and intelligent looking plump puppy and asked if he might buy it to take back as a present for his wife, this was agreed to with pleasure.

'Sabarka' was exhibited in 1894 at Birmingham in the Foreign Dog Class; he aroused keen interest and eventually Mr Kilburn-Scott (no doubt tired of being asked "What Breed is he?") decided that Sabarka should adopt the name of his people.

Later Mr Kilburn-Scott imported Whitey Petchora from a ship trading in the White Sea, and further dogs were imported by others or taken back to England by subsequent expeditions.

Books on the early history of the Breed in England are peppered with the names of aristocracy: Duchesses, Countesses, the Hon. Mrs. This, the Lady That, Captains, Majors, Colonels etc., and in 1902 'Jacko' (pure white) was presented to Queen Alexandra by Major Jackson.

Concurrently in 1906 the first registered Samoyed in the U.S.A. was 'Moustan' (white) who had been a gift from the Grand Duke

Nicholas of Russia to the Princess de Monyglyon - born a Countess (Belgian), a Duchess by marriage, mother of a Marquis - herself a hereditary Princess of the Holy Roman Empire - and married to a lion tamer! (By today's standards, although still obviously an aristocratic dog, the Breed seems to have slid somewhat down the social scale!)

There was considerable variety of colour in the early imports. Authorities maintain that white dogs procured from Northern Siberia between the White and Kara Seas were the "true Samoyed" and that those introduced from Russia were mostly coloured or, if themselves white, produced coloureds. It seems that dogs from several areas were imported into England and the combination caused problems in breeding the white, cream or biscuit preferred both by breeders and the general public. (Those interested in delving further into this subject should refer to the Samoyed Association of Great Britain's book "The Samoyed." Another publication by the same title was published in 1964 by the late Miss Marion Keyte-Perry and also mentions colour in earlier dogs. With the utmost respect to that grand old lady, her book contains many inaccuracies as far as details of individual dogs and people are concerned.)

In 1909 Mr Kilburn-Scott founded The Samoyede Club and a Breed Standard was drawn up. In drafting the original Standard, Officials of the Samoyede Club took into consideration direct imports and also those resulting from generations of English-bred dogs.

Meanwhile, back in New Zealand, coincidentally the Breed was also being established - not by expending time, effort and money, but because Samoyeds virtually arrived at our back door and demanded to be let in!

In his book "To the South Polar Regions" Louis Bernacchi covers the 1899/1900 Newnes-Borchgrevink Expedition in the S.S. Southern Cross:

"The sickness was aggravated by the intense heat and the appalling effluvium arising from the ninety Siberian sledge-dogs we had on deck. These dogs were procured from the Samoyedes in the North of Siberia and were the first dogs ever introduced in Antarctic exploration."

C.E. Borchgrevink's book, "First on the Antarctic Continent", refers to the return trip of that Expedition:

"Later we steamed round Halfmoon Bay, where a little settlement of houses is situated called Oban. During our stay there I made arrangements for landing the sledge-dogs on Native Island, a small island adjacent to Stewart Island, providing I should obtain the necessary permission from the New Zealand Government."

That permission was granted by the Hon. Mr Ward, then Minister of Internal Affairs, who later became Sir Joseph Ward, Prime Minister of New Zealand. (A breeding pair of Samoyeds was given to him by Captain Robert Scott about 1901 and in 1902 he became the first registered breeder of 'Esquimaux' - an early name for the Breed in this country.)

During 1965 I had personal correspondence with the son of the Island Warden Mr A.W. Traill, who had cared for the dogs off-loaded from the 1899/1900 Expedition. Mr R.H. Traill wrote me that although he was only eight years of age at the time, he remembered the Southern Cross anchoring off Ringaringa Point opposite their house and Mr Borchgrevink catching the sailing oyster cutter Ruruhau to Bluff to send word of the Expedition's return, while the sailing master, Captain Yensen, and some of the officers, including the Lapland handlers of the sledge-dog teams, spent an evening at the Traill home. Mr R.H. Traill wrote: "Because of quarantine regulations the sledge dogs were to be destroyed. My father was so appalled at this that he got permission to have them landed on Native Island and undertook to look after them until they could be used by some future expedition. ... Later they were brought to Ringaringa and enclosed in yards. We used them to sledge firewood and they enjoyed the exercise." At a later stage Mr Traill Snr bred from the white Samoyeds and sold some pups. Some of these were registered with the N.Z.K.C. and used for breeding. Other dogs were later collected and taken South by Shackleton's Expedition.

"The Heart of the Antarctic" written by E.H. Shackleton, refers to these dogs in connection with his 1907/9 Expedition:

"I knew that a breeder in Stewart Island, New Zealand, had dogs descended from the Siberian dogs used on the Newnes-Borchgrevink Expedition and I cabled him to supply as many as he could up to forty. He was only able to let me have nine, but this team proved quite sufficient for the purposes of the expedition, as the arrival of pups brought the number up to twenty-two during the course of the work in the South."

Between the two Expeditions mentioned above, Captain Robert F. Scott also tripped South (1901/3) with twenty dogs obtained from Samoyede tribes in Northern Siberia. At one point in his book "The Voyage of the Discovery" he refers to "Vincka, Armitage's pet Samoyede" having a month old litter of four. From this Expedition Captain Scott presented three female and two male Samoyeds to the Wellington Zoo and later the Zoo imported further Samoyeds from Denmark (1911) and England (1915 and later), making the last importation in 1934. In December 1941, after the last Zoo-bred litter had been whelped, the Samoyed section was closed and young dogs and puppies sold to the public. Although none had been registered with the N.Z.K.C., a few of these dogs were later used for breeding.

Herbert G. Ponting's book "The Great White South" covers the British Antarctic Expedition of 1910/13. He mentions the fact that "someone in England" (in fact it was Mr and Mrs Kilburn-Scott) "had presented Captain Scott with three English-bred Samoyedes, who felt that these pretty exotics were quite unfitted for such arduous work as lay ahead." One of the Samoyeds died on the journey and the two others and several puppies they had produced were given away to friends of Captain Scott in Christchurch.

So there we were in the Lucky Seat again - this time reaping the benefits of English Breeders (unknown to them) - and the dogs a gift to boot! One of these bitches arrived with the name of 'Nova' and appears in New Zealand pedigrees, and another 'Lady Scott' was also bred from several times.

Admiral Richard E Byrd was the last Antarctic Explorer to be connected with the Samoyed Breed and is also the registered breeder of Snow Queen, whelped in 1947, left in this country and registered with the N Z K C in 1953.

From the first registration in 1903 the breed was known as 'Esquimaux' and this intermingled with 'Eskimos' and 'Samoyede' for many years but by 1924 the name seems to have become firmly established as 'Samoyed'.

The first Samoyed Challenge Certificates were authorised by the N Z K C in 1919 and allocated to the Dunedin Show. Thereafter they were offered at one or two shows each year until eventually, after what must have seemed an eternity to frustrated Samoyed owners, they became available at all shows. (To attain Championship status in early days, it was necessary for a dog to gain three C C's under three different Judges).

Mrs W Richards of the Cricketers' Arms Hotel in Wellington was the first Samoyed breeder to register a kennel name ("Antarctic Snow" in 1922) and her dogs were continually on display to the public and used in sleds to raise funds for charity. Her male, 'Doctor', born May 1915, became the first Samoyed Champion in this country and some years later the Editor of the N Z Fancier commented: "Present day exhibitors of Samoyeds could have little conception of Mrs Richards' battle for consideration in the immediate post-war years." That statement was made in the mid 1920's - yet we present-day "old-timers" thought we had problems!!

Mr Les Burt was another campaigner during the 1920's, his father (a Salvation Army Officer) having previously been given 'Lady Scott', already mentioned, in recognition of his many kindnesses to expedition crews. Les Burt also managed to acquire a lovely male Samoyed from a Canadian ship in Wanganui and this dog, Prince Aututaki, became the second Samoyed Champion in 1929.

Mr Fred Zaffer of Dunedin was a pioneer in the (official) importing field, bringing in Snow Chief (later a Champion) and Snow Queen from Australia in 1932. During personal correspondence with Mr Zaffer in his declining years, he expressed great delight on learning that Samoyeds were taking major show awards and commented: "At last those Judges are waking up." (He recalled the days when it was not unusual for three men and 7 or 8 Samoyeds to pile into a beaten-up Ford and travel 100 miles to shows "where the Judges never even gave the Sams a glance.") Mr Zaffer was the breeder of New Zealand's first Samoyed bitch Champion, White Princess of the Yukon, whelped 13.1.35 and owned by Mr D G Brain in the North Island.

Following expedition dogs, a few which arrived by other means, and Mr Zaffer's 1932 imports, there were a number of importations from England and Australia during the mid and late 1930's and in 1938 Mr and Mrs Woodhouse of Dunedin imported English Champion Rex of the Arctic, who soon became a New Zealand Champion and the first Samoyed to win Best in Show in this country. (Incidentally, it was a further 20 years before the Breed again achieved this award - this time Ch. Kalina Wanderer (Imp.Aust) owned by Mrs N Fraser of Christchurch).

The first New Zealand-bred Samoyed to win Best in Show was Ch. Kuts-Boy of

Chienne d'Or, owned by the Bishop of Napier, and the first Samoyed to be my own Ch. Trezor of Bela

It would be quite impossible to list the worthy 'firsts', but an important formation during the mid 1930's was the Southern Cross Samoyed Club in the Wellington area; unfortunately this was away during the early years of World War II. Subsequently The Auckland Samoyed Club was formed in 1949, followed by the New Zealand Samoyed Club in 1957. The Provincial Samoyed Association (which Association received recognition from the N Z K C on 28th April 1969, at approximately which time The Auckland Samoyed Club changed its name to The Samoyed Club of the Waikato and Districts Samoyed Club in 1980.

For many years now Group A shows are awarded for Samoyeds (they come fast; I feel sure that, if they are present, Breed Pioneers (who had little information, assistance or recognition) will be waving flags and cheering.

Footnote: Reproductions from photographs of many early Samoyeds, including Champions and expedition dogs, appear in the 2nd Edition of "The Samoyed (New Zealand)" (Auckram/Wilson) which is in print but available for inspection in the N Z K C Library and the Wellington Samoyed Club Library. Some of the reproductions, made from very old photographs, lack finer detail and coat colour darker than in the originals. Photographs of many expedition dogs can be viewed on request at the Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington.

A Brief History of the Breed

by Mrs E. B. Maitland

The Samoyede people in early times together with their herds lived a nomadic existence in the plateau area of Iran. They lived off the land, and at that time land ownership was non-existent, it was there for the taking. The grazing became ever increasingly valuable, as tribes developed and separated off in family or tribal groups. It was the strongest who took possession of the richest of the lands, eventually forcing the reindeer to seek less fertile pasture in more remote areas. As time went on, this state of survival spread across Mongolia pushing the Samoyede people north until finally they settled in the far reaches of Northern Siberia, between the Yenisei River in Siberia to the Petchora River in Russia.

With them travelled their dogs, and to them, this was the land of peace and plenty - there was enough food for all - fish, walrus, Arctic Bear, foxes, and moss for the reindeer.

The Samoyede people lived in ice-walled "chooms" where the dogs also enjoyed the comforts of home. They shared the master's bed and table. The dogs joined in with the hunt for walrus and other food. They herded the reindeer and were constant companions to man, hence their intelligence and gentle

nature towards mankind. When the need arose, they pulled the sledges, but primarily their work was guardian to the reindeer. They frequently dug into the snow, making a comfortable bed, their noses sticking out, and carefully covered with the tip of their tail. Originally they were a multi-coloured dog, and some of the early importations into Britain were black, black and tan, black and white. Centuries of Arctic suns gradually lightened the coats, and the whiter specimens eventually predominated, as these were the more popular. Most important to their survival in these harsh conditions was the warm undercoat which was generally shed in the warmer months for comfort, leaving the glistening outer coat of beauty.

Towards the end of the eighteenth century, when Arctic expeditions were popular, along with the inroads of civilisation, explorers learned of the existence of the samoyede people and their dogs. This was followed by ever increasing visits from the explorers to this remote part of the world.

In 1889 Ernest Kilburn-Scott purchased a puppy for his wife from the natives. This puppy was a dark biscuit shaded dog named Sabarka. Soon after, he purchased a mate

from Northern Russia, a much lighter colour named Whitey Petchora.

Towards the turn of the century Ernest Kilburn-Scotts acquired some dogs from the Jackson Harmsworth expedition, and from the same pack, the pure white lead dog "Whitey" was presented to Queen Alexandra. A dog born on the ship also came to England with the Duke of Abruzzi. Another dog named Russ, which was acquired through a dealer from Tobolsk, the Duke of Abruzzi came to England with the Duke of Abruzzi. This formed the early beginnings of the breed in England. Famed names began to appear and are still never forgotten. Pearlene, Solene, Ivanoff, Nansen, Olgalene (daughter of Sabarka and Whitey). Jacko proved a prolific stud. In 1906 the breed was introduced to America with the Russian Champion Moustan and some breeding material.

In 1908 a turning point. The Kilburn-Scotts purchased "Antarctic Buck" from Sydney Australia, and took him to England where he had a marked influence on the breed. He contained some of the foundation stock of that era which contained the quality they were seeking. From here, the breed grew from strength to strength and the popularity has never waned to this day.

The Samoyede (the last "e" was officially deleted from the word in 1947), the most beautiful of the canine species, has served mankind since time immemorial - to herding his reindeer, as a sled dog and as a companion.

Samoyeds were first introduced into New Zealand via the Antarctic expeditions, some obtained directly from the Samoyede people, and others from England. In later years breeders began purchasing Samoyeds from England and Australia, the most famous of these early imports was undoubtedly Eng. Ch. Rex of the Arctic. This dog, I believe, was the first Samoyed to win a Best in Show in New Zealand. Samoyeds in New Zealand have always appeared to have the depth of quality.

Whether this is perhaps attributed to the continuation of good imports is, I guess, a debatable issue. Nevertheless, the breed is very strong here, so we are told by numerous judges from England, the U S A, Scandinavia and other countries including Australia. Samoyeds are consistent winners at both group and In Show levels, which is an endorsement of the critiques received from the overseas judges.

The Samoyed is a working dog through and through, and it has been a bone of contention for many years as to why he is classified in the Non-Sporting group both in New Zealand and Australia. To date there has not been a satisfactory answer. In England and the U S A

the Samoyed is in his rightful place - the Working Group. Perhaps someone can shed some light on this one.

Known affectionately as the dog that "carries the spirit of Christmas in his heart and face the whole year through," the Samoyed is a hardy dog able to withstand the coldest of climates, he possesses no "doggy odour," his disposition is affectionate, courageous and he is a well-mannered dog.

It is always my contention that one does not own a samoyed - rather, one is owned by a samoyed. Perhaps I am biased, but I never cease to be amazed by their sheer beauty, and their absolute love of the human race.

The Standard of the Samoyed

The explanation of the wording of the Standard given here is for the benefit of readers whose acquaintance with the breed is recent, and who may be puzzled by some of the phrases which it contains. We sincerely hope that this section may be of real value in creating a greater degree of agreement upon the various points which go to make the perfect Samoyed, and we further hope that in the light of this knowledge breeders both new and of long-standing may find renewed enjoyment in striving to reach that perfection.

It should be noted that, in this section, the wording which appears in heavy type is the wording of the Official Standard.

Characteristics: The Samoyed is intelligent, alert, full of action, but above all displaying affection towards all mankind. Living as they did in the tents of the Samoyed people for many centuries, the dogs developed a wonderful relationship with human beings. They are intelligent and independent, giving and expecting affection to a high degree. To be starved of human contact is intolerable to this breed, and therefore, while they can be kept quite satisfactorily in kennels, they need daily attention and occasional longer periods of close relationship with people. After centuries of sleeping in native "chooms" can you deny them the occasional night on your bed?

A snappy, ill-tempered Samoyed is extremely rare if he has been treated correctly from puppyhood, for it is most unnatural to see a healthy puppy shy away from human affection. It is a mistake to underestimate the effect which environment has upon Samoyeds. Where an adult dog does develop ill temper, despite good handling it is a real disservice to the breed to perpetuate that line.

General Appearance: This Samoyed being essentially a working dog should be strong and active and graceful, and as his work lies in cold climates his coat should be heavy and weather-resisting. He should not be too long in the back, as a weak back would make him practically useless for his legitimate work; but at the same time a cobby body, such as a Chow's would also place him at a great disadvantage as a draught dog. Breeders should aim for the happy medium, viz. a body not long, but muscular, allowing liberty, with a deep chest and well-sprung ribs, strong neck proudly arched, straight front and exceptionally long loins. Both dogs and bitches should give the appearance of being capable of great endurance but should be free from coarseness. A full-grown dog should stand about 21 inches at the shoulder. On account of the depth of chest

required the legs should be moderately long, a very short-legged dog is to be deprecated. Hindquarters should be particularly well developed, stifles well angulated, and any suggestion of unsound stifles or cow hocks severely penalised. Strong - active - graceful.... these qualities are absolutely basic to the breed and every breeder and judge should have them in the forefront of their consciousness when considering their dogs. The strength comes from good bone and muscle development, but this must be allied to action and grace of movement. A typical Samoyed is rarely still when standing - he is poised and ready for instant action upon the slightest pretext; it is this reason, linked to their independence of character, which makes most of them unsuitable subjects for the rigid discipline of the obedience ring.

Length of back is well described in the Standard, but it should be remembered that a bitch's back needs to be slightly longer than that of a dog if she is to whelp easily. Furthermore, their legitimate work was a mixture of hunting, herding and sledge pulling, and thus the strength of a body needed must not be achieved at the expense of excessive weight, for an unduly heavy dog would soon become useless.

The dog's height is measured at the shoulder. This may be found by feeling two bones which are close together on the back almost directly above the front legs. These bones correspond to the shoulder-blades in the human being. To determine the height accurately the dog should be measured when out of coat with the same kind of device as is used for humans. A rough guide can be achieved against a wall with the dog standing upon a firm surface, and placing a guide across its back at the correct point. In the interests of reasonable accuracy it is best if this guide incorporates a spirit level.

Here it must be pointed out that the British Standard gives 21 inches as the average height, with an inch or tolerance upon either side. In the United States of America slightly larger dogs are permitted.

Viewed from the rear the legs should be perfectly straight in the standing position. An unsound stifle is one in which the stifle joint is loose. This can be felt, and even more readily seen when the dog moves, for a loose joint here produces a sloppy lower leg movement.

Head and Skull: Head powerful and wedge-shaped with a broad, flat skull, muzzle of medium length, a tapering foreface not too

sharply defined. Lips black, hair short and smooth before the ears. Nose black for preference, but may be brown or flesh-coloured. Strong jaws. The correct head comes from a broad skull allied to a medium "stop". It is a mistake to imagine that the stop must be very pronounced to give a powerful head, for if this is too deep the face becomes too much like that of a Chow. On the other hand, little or no stop certainly produces a plain face, and thus, as in many other features, what is ideal is the "happy medium."

The wedge described in the Standard is seen when the face is viewed from above and the face fringes are pushed back. It begins below the ears and finishes at the nose.

The black nose is preferred, but lighter colours are permitted because many dogs lose pigment to some degree during the winter.

Eyes: Almond shaped, medium to dark brown in colour, set well apart with alert and intelligent expression. Eyerims should be black and unbroken. The almond-shaped eye should be set so that the tapering end points towards the base of the ear, and this correct set of eye can easily be seen in a puppy. Good width between the eyes is essential to balance the required width of skull and to preserve the proportion of the wedge-shaped head. The colour range cannot be emphasised too strongly - medium to dark brown. The really expressive eye is brown, and eyes which are too light or too dark detract from this important aspect of the Samoyed expression. It must be remembered, however, that a puppy with very dark eyes will probably change as it gets older, obtaining the correct shade of brown at about two years of age.

Ears: Thick, not too long and slightly rounded at the tips, set well apart and well covered inside with hair. The ears should be fully erect in the grown dog. The thick, well-furred ears of a Samoyed are delightful and are a most distinctive feature of the breed. As suggested in the Standard, the length should be medium, precisely what is acceptable in an individual dog or bitch depends upon the all-important aspect of balance of the whole face. A well-coated, mature dog can carry slightly longer ears than a more petite bitch.

Mouth: Upper teeth should just overlap the underteeth in a scissor bite. The correct placement of teeth can be seen easily by turning back the lips immediately under the nose. Just as the blades of scissors close on behind the other but in very close contact, so the teeth should do the same, with the upper teeth overlapping the lower.

Neck: Proudly arched. Surely self-evident in the stance or the photograph of any dog which really possesses this feature.

Forequarters: Legs straight and muscular with good bone. Viewed from the front the legs should be set reasonably well apart if the chest is well developed, but not too far to give the impression of a "barrel" chest. A dog with this fault will roll as he moves and the front legs

will be thrown slightly outwards instead of moving directly forward. When standing the front legs should appear parallel throughout their length. Good bone is essential, but must be in relation to the size of the dog.

Body: Back medium in length, broad and very muscular. Chest broad and deep. Ribs well sprung, giving plenty of heart and lung room. The back is that part of the back line com-

posed of the five vertebrae between the withers and the loin - the ninth to the tenth vertebrae inclusive.

A Samoyed's body can only be appreciated by feeling it, and what a delight it is to do when all these points are present to the full degree! The fact that the ringsider cannot exhibit often causes surprise at a judge's placings at shows, yet the body is a

'Qualities of a Good Samoyed

AS CONDENSED FROM THE STANDARD OF THE BREED

SKULL - wedge shaped, slightly crowned

EARS - strong, thick, erect, mobile, set well apart, rounded tips.

STOP - well defined - not too abrupt.

EYES - dark, deepset, well apart, almond shaped, expressive.

EYE RIMS - black preferred.

MUZZLE - deep, medium length and width.

NOSE - black preferred.

LIPS - black preferred, slightly curving up at corners.

TEETH - scissors bite.

FLEWS - should not drop.

JAWS - strong.

SHOULDERS - long, sloping, firmly set, 45° layback.

CHEST - deep.

RIBS - well sprung.

FORELEGS - straight, parallel, moderately long.

ELBOWS - turned neither in nor out.

PASTERNS - strong, sturdy, straight out flexible.

FEET - large, long, flattish, slightly spread.

TOES - arched, pads thick, hair between toes.

COAT - double, undercoat soft & thick, outercoat with longer harsh hair standing straight out, free from curl, should glisten and be weather resistant. Quality more important than quantity.

COLOUR - pure white, white and biscuit, cream or all biscuit.

DISPOSITION - intelligent, gentle, loyal, alert, adaptable, full of action, eager to serve, friendly but conservative; not shy nor distrustful, not overly aggressive.

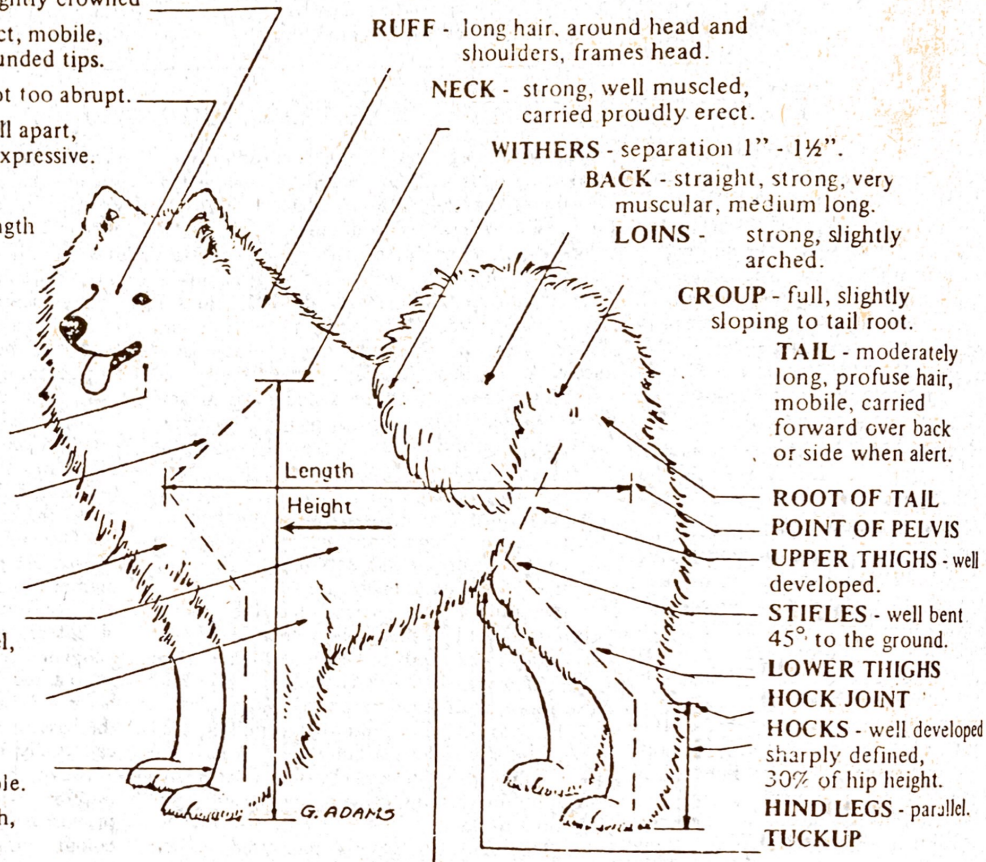
DISQUALIFICATIONS - Blue eyes. Coat colour other than described.

SEVERE PENALTY - Unprovoked aggressiveness; unsound stifles or cowhocks.

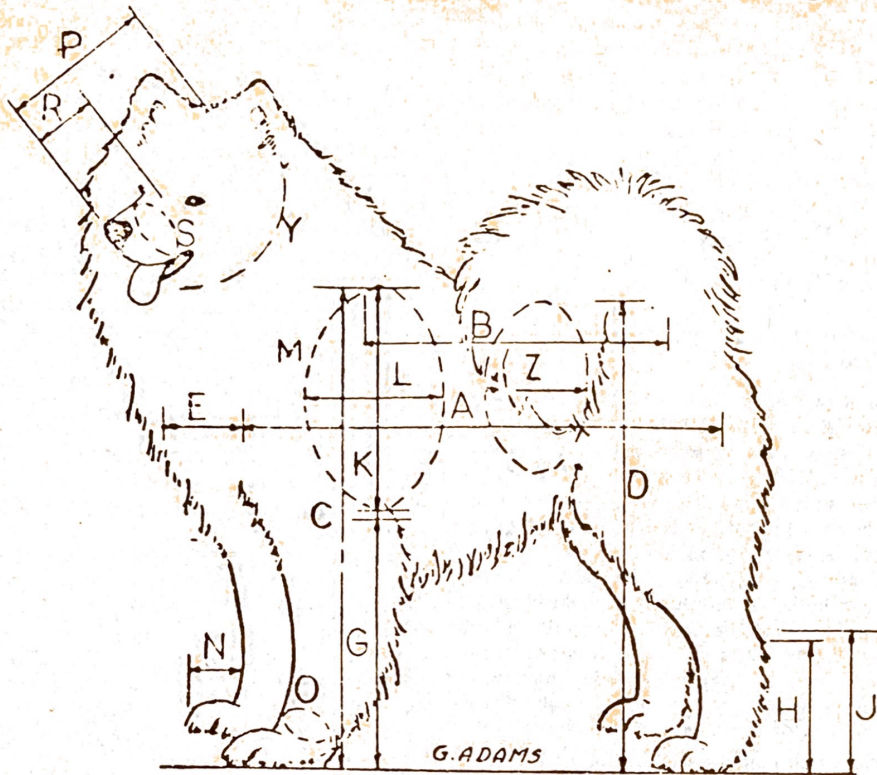
PENALTY - over or undersize according to deviation; choppy or stilted gait; out at shoulders or elbows; round or protruding eyes; over or undershot jaws.

FAULTS - double joints; feet turning in or out; splayed or cat-footed; double hooked tail.

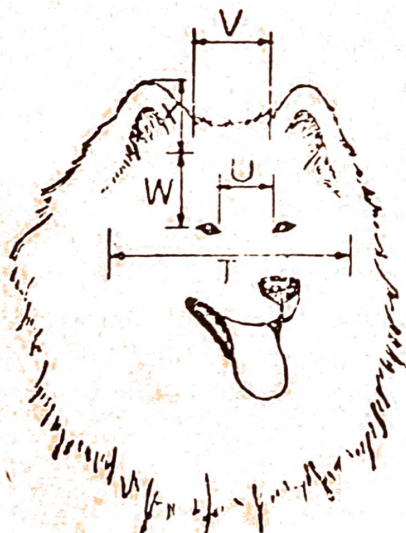
OBJECTIONABLE - short legs; straight stifles; long or weak back; close coupled; clumsy or racy body; barrel chest; high or low tail set; round or apple head; coarse or snipy muzzle; large, small, pointed or bear ears.



Method of Measuring Samoyeds for Charting Data



- A. Overall Body Length - taken by measuring dog, when standing naturally, on a line from front of chest to rear of pelvis.
- B. Length of Back - withers to base of tail.
- C. Height (front) - vertical distance from top of withers to the ground.
- D. Height (rear) - vertical distance from top of croup to the ground.
- E. Width of Shoulders - use calipers.
- F. Width of Hips - use calipers.
- G. Height Top of Elbow to ground.
- H. Height Top of Hock Joint to ground.
- J. Height Tip of Tail Bone to ground.
- K. Depth of Chest - use calipers at deepest point.
- L. Spring of Ribs - use calipers at widest point.
- M. Girth - taken back of front legs at deepest point of ribs. Use tape.
- N. Length of Foot - pastern to end of toe pad.
- O. Girth of Pastern - use tape.
- P. Overall Length of Head - from tip of nose to back of occiput.
- R. Length of Muzzle - tip of nose to line between inner eye corners.
- S. Girth of Muzzle - use tape.
- T. Width of Skull - use calipers.
- U. Width between Eyes.
- V. Width between Base of Ears
- W. Distance between Base of Ears and outer corner of eyes.
- X. Length of Ear.
- Y. Girth of Neck. Use tape.
- Z. Girth of Waist - use tape ahead of hips.



again the emphasis is upon good muscle. The stifles should make an angle of 45 degrees with the ground.

Feet: Long, flattish and slightly spread out. Soles well cushioned with hair. Another typical feature of the Samoyed. The front feet are not quite so long as the rear ones, but the front legs have the immediate pastern between leg and foot. In a well-exercised dog the pastern makes an angle of 60-70 degrees with the ground. The featherings on the top of the feet extending forward and to the sides are as important as the cushioning of the pads in dense hair underneath.

Tail: Long and profuse, carried over the back when alert; sometimes dropped when at rest. The plume is one of the crowning glories of the dog, and the best set tail is the one which is carried over and close to the back, with the long fur dropping to one side. Individuals vary in dropping the tail - some drop it even when

obviously interested! However, since it is such an important part of the outline, it should normally be seen over the back. Young bitches tend to drop the tail when near to their season, especially if prospective boy friends appear!

Coat: The body should be well covered with a thick, close, soft and short undercoat, with harsh hair growing through it, forming the outer coat, which should stand straight away from the body and be free from curl. The double coat is most important in the Samoyed, but the dogs carry a rather longer outer coat than do the bitches, though the latters should not just have a dense single coat. The long coat in the dog should not be so long as to become flowing - it should be harsh and off-standing, while the bitch's is usually slightly softer in texture. When the coat is cast, it is mainly the undercoat which comes away, and which may be spun; the outer coat is useless for this purpose.

important part of the assessment of the whole dog. The spring of rib likewise can only be felt - there must be adequate room, they must not be heavily covered with fat, neither should it be possible to count every rib, which would suggest insufficient feeding.

Hindquarters: Very muscular, stifles well angulated; cow hocks or straight stifles very objectionable. Apart from the comments given after "General Appearance", note how once

Colour: Pure white; white and biscuit; cream. Although the pure white coat is the most popular, most Samoyed owners of long standing accept the particular beauty and quality of a delicately shaded dog. Usually a shaded coat is harsher in texture, and if a line is developing very soft coats it may be useful to introduce a slightly coloured line. Many dogs develop some biscuit shading as they grow older. Where colour appears on the face, however, it is important that it should not produce an unpleasant expression, such as "spectacle" rings round the eyes. Little spots of colour on the foreface are referred to as "tea stains" and are quite acceptable if not unpleasantly obtrusive.

Disposition: Alert and intelligent, showing marked affection towards all mankind. Unprovoked aggressiveness to be severely penalised. The disposition is so important that it is quoted in the first sentence of the Standard as *the* characteristic of the breed. A dog which shows unprovoked aggressiveness to humans in the ring should never win a high place. However, this should not be confused with arguments among the dogs themselves - particularly stud dogs, for remember that the instinct of the pack is still near the surface.

Movement: Should move freely with a strong agile drive showing power and elegance. Gait is not easy to assess and ability to appreciate

it comes only from prolonged observation. Power comes from the back legs and they should give the impression that as the dog moves he is trying to push something away behind him from under his feet. The correct gait is not simply an easy swinging movement! Viewed from the rear the back legs should move forward in a straight line from the hips downwards without any deviation whatsoever. Any lateral movement from side to side when seen from the rear suggests poor hips and/or poor muscle. The elegance is seen to best advantage from the side when the dog is trotting; the whole carriage becomes erect and the movement should appear easy, neat and controlled.

Weight and Size: Dogs 20-22 inches at the shoulder. Bitches 18-20 inches at the shoulder. Weight in proportion to size. There is considerable variation between 18 and 22 inches - a point which is not always remembered in the show ring, for both ends of the scale should be acceptable. An 18 inch high bitch should be neat and petite in appearance, and while in her native home she would not have been used for draught work, nevertheless she could easily make an excellent herder and hunter. Conversely, a 22 inch high dog needs very good bone and muscle combined with a very firm body; such a dog would be capable of any type of work which came his way. Those who use

such Samoyeds for sledge work re- although they do not break any speed nevertheless they are capable of covering distances without showing the signs which soon become apparent with lar-

Faults: Big ears with little feather ears. Narrow width between ears. Blue or very light eyes. A bulky face. Blue or very light eyes. A bulky long body. A soft coat; a wavy coat of undercoat. Slack tail carriage; carried well over the back, though it when the dog is at rest. Absence of feet. Round, cat-like feet. Black or blue. Severe unprovoked aggressiveness. An unsound movement. Most of these faults are self-explanatory. It may be useful to mention, however, that no mention of movement appeared in the Standard until the 1957 revision. It must be emphasised, therefore, that unsound movement is now a fault for both breeders and judges alike take note of this, bad movement should gradually disappear as a thing of the past.

Finally, it should be obvious that the presence of the Standard is concerned with a medium, well-balanced dog. Extreme faults should be avoided, but good power and muscle are essential - in proportion to body size. Remembered the Samoyed will remain a true Samoyed and we as owners will have the satisfaction of knowing that our dog's nature intended them to be.

SAMIVAHN SAMOYEDS

Proud to be the home of:

CH. EISCHIEDVIK PEARLONNA — Multi Best of Group Winner

Now available at stud to approved bitches

CH. SNOWRANGER WONITA — Multi Group Winner including Best of Group and her progeny — by *Ch. Samways Starnova (whelped 3 October 1981)*

SAMIVAHN PEERVIZ (our biscuit boy) — 2 C.C., 4 Res. C.C. and Puppy of Group

SAMIVAHN NOVA PRATIKA — 4 C.C., 9 Res C.C. and Twice Baby Puppy in Show

Quality, line-bred litters are planned during 1982

* Ch. Wonita projected end January

* Pratika projected September/October

Enquiries welcome

John & Paddy Watts

32 Bancroft Terrace

Newlands, Wellington 4

Phone 787-950

Judging and Appreciating the Samoyed

by Neilmar Fraser

It is unlikely that Rogers and Hammerstein were entitled to award Challenge Certificates for our breed, because had they been able to do so, they would surely have listed it among 'My Favourite Things'. Judging dogs is a joyous thing; judging Samoyeds is supremely so.

Whenever we officiate in the centre of the ring, those of us who judge are sitting in judgement on experts. It is our duty to exhibitors to be familiar with the standard of any breed before us, and it is our duty to the breeds themselves to acquire the utmost knowledge and skill.

Since it was first written at the beginning of this century, the Samoyed standard has changed remarkably little. Our dogs are a natural breed, in that there is no mixture of fox or wolf in their veins, nor did man mix other breeds with ours in order to obtain our present day specimens. There has been no attempt, either, to change type or to reduce or enlarge size in the English standard over the years, although it should be mentioned that in respect of height the American standard differs slightly from ours.

In his natural environment a Samoyed was a herd dog and a hunter. It was European man who put him into a sledge. In his native home he lived with his master in the 'choom'. This particular fact is written into the very first sentence in our standard ...'Characteristics: The Samoyed is intelligent, alert, full of action, but above all displaying affection towards all mankind.' A Samoyed is not a 'silhouette' dog, he should give the impression of being interested in everything around him. However, this does not give him the right to leap about in an uncontrolled fashion! Some of our most successful judges receive tremendous response from our breed because they talk to the dogs as they handle them. As I write, I think of one lady who, over many years, has chatted to my own dogs in the ring. Without exception, each dog has, on the spot, declared his lifelong devotion to her! Actual unprovoked aggressiveness in our breed, while comparatively rare, is nevertheless intolerable, but so too is a shy dog, or one who rolls his eyes in uncertainty or suspicion. Half a step forward to a judge, with a lick on the hand, is the norm. There is no excuse for judges to say, as one did recently in my hearing 'No kisses!' Be glad about the friendliness, it is as it should be. Besides, most rings provide water for a judge. Personally I see no need for any Samoyed to bark madly whilst he is in the ring. This shows either an atypical temperament, or a distinct lack of caring training or loving discipline. Perhaps all. It is quite uncharacteristic of a normal healthy, responsive dog. Samoyed temperament is inherent. I cannot emphasise too strongly that it is essential in our lovely breed.

A Samoyed is a medium sized dog. One should never look at an exhibit and think 'Is he too big?' or yet 'Is he too small?' In the words of our standard he is 'strong, active and graceful'. Each standard contains key words. These are undoubtedly ours! 'Strong' comes from bone and muscle development, which can be assessed only by handling the exhibit, for prolific coat is able to cover a multitude of sins! 'Active' relates to temperament (again) but also to his ability to move correctly. Good Samoyed movement is a joy to behold ... and never forget that pleasing movement necessarily includes correct feet, long, flattish, slightly spread out, soles well cushioned with hair. A Samoyed should move straight away, with no lateral movement whatever. He should move straight back, with no paddling or weaving, but bear in mind, that like most working dogs he has some 'give' in his pasterns, although he should never be 'down' or 'loose' in those pasterns. He places his feet firmly, with purpose. He must never wobble, lumber, creep or tip-toe. His stride is long, with reach in front and great drive behind. His back legs should give the impression that he is pushing the ground out, behind him, and one should be able to see his pads as he goes away. He is *never* busy getting nowhere with his length of stride. It is long, effortless, easy and above all economical. 'Graceful' includes all this, to which we add a plumed tail over his back and to the side and a typical head with a Samoyed smile.

A Samoyed head is a distinctive feature of the whole dog. It is wedge shaped, broad and flat between the ears which must be erect, thick and well furred. His eyes are almond shaped, medium to dark brown in colour and alive with intelligence. He is sweetly chiselled under his eyes, has a medium length muzzle which tapers gently to his nose and his black lips cover a scissor bite. There is a definite stop between the eyes, and the hair on a Sammy's face is short and smooth. No flews!

Because he likes people, a Samoyed also enjoys being handled, and will stand with dignity while you go over him. His front legs should be straight and muscled with ample bone. His chest should be broad as well as deep. One of my own special dislikes in our breed is those two front legs, both of which pop out of the same hole! Watch for it, penalise it severely. Of course, we don't want a barrel chest, either. Again, the key word is medium. Samoyeds do not suffer from an excess of any one feature. Once more I emphasise medium, strong, active and graceful.

Behind the well sprung ribs we find a medium length body, not fat, not skinny under the coat, but muscled and strong. His stifles are well angulated, beautifully muscled, all of

which shows clearly in side view movement. For his size, a Samoyed should be comparatively short in hock. When the dog is standing, his hocks should be perpendicular to the ground.

No dog should ever enter a ring unless he is spotlessly clean and beautifully groomed. That is simple courtesy to any judge. A Samoyed's coat should be of the double sort, a soft, short, dense undercoat (an insulator against very cold temperatures) with harsh guard hair growing through it, the whole standing straight away from the body, and entirely free from curl or wave. In colour it may be pure white, white and biscuit or cream. All colours are equally correct, there is no preference. It should be noted that a bitch seldom carries the same quantity of harsh offstanding coat as does the male, but she too must have two coats, the absence of either being quite unacceptable. We work with a white dog, but we want no sign of albino tendencies. One must carefully check for complete black pigment around the eyes, for nice black lips, pleasant brown eyes (not black, for then expression is lost) and strong, thick black pads to the feet.

A word about judging puppies. One must be patient with babies of any breed, perhaps especially with Samoyeds! If a youngster gambols on his first walk, please try again to assess his movement. Don't try for expression by throwing things ... if he can reach it, he will probably gobble it up. Make a soft sound, ears will flick erect. Puppy coats are softer than adult ones, so make allowances, but be sure that there are still two coats. Enjoy the fluffy ears, not only are they charming, they are also indicative of a substantial adult coat to come. A Samoyed puppy is strong and upstanding, full of his own brand of joy in life, outgoing, and his movement must be true, free and exactly as elegant and ground covering as that of the adults in the breed.

This has been written over several evenings while our house dog has kept us company, his nose and front paws gently covering his master's feet, his eyes alert for the comfort of our aged Corgi by his side, and our even more aged cat asleep on the heating vent. All dog lovers are sentimentalists at heart! I am very aware of the fact that while he is living in close and happy communication with his human family, a Sammy is doing what he loves best. Because of this, when we go to our next show this dog, although he is still quite young, will move with his handler, their rapport evident to all. We have shared our hearts and our home with Samoyeds since 1954, and we cannot imagine that it will ever be otherwise. In truth, we are addicted to the breed

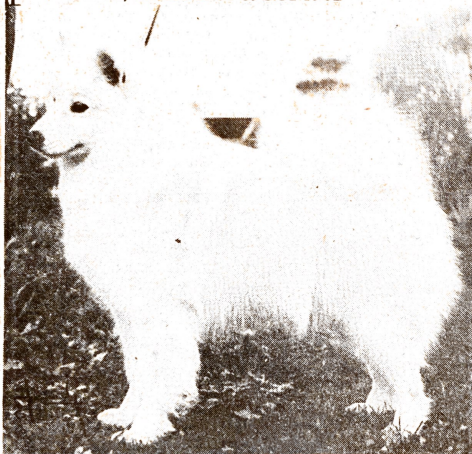
'The dog which carries in his heart and in his smile the spirit of Christmas the whole year through.'

KIMCHATKA

For sound, quality show winning samoyeds with superb temperament. We lead the field as breeders of Group & In Show winners. All English Bloodlines combining the cream of top winners & producers.

Pictured at Right & on front cover:—

CH. KIMCHATKA ARCHILLES w 2/10/80 (Whitewisp Arrogance (Eng) x Novaskaya Tsarina Lafay (Imp UK) "King" is well known throughout N.Z. for his many achievements including at All-Breed Ch. shows — 13 Puppy of Groups, 12 Puppy in Shows, 9 Junior of Groups, 3 Junior in Shows, 8 Res of Groups, 7 Best of Groups; Best in Show at 1 Group and 2 Specialist Ch shows. NZKC Puppy of the Year 1981. Puppy & Best of Group & Puppy in Show 1981 Nationals. Dog of the Year DSC 1981 & 1982, APSA 1981 & SCI 1982



Pictured

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Also residing in our kennels are:—

CH. NOVASKAYA SILVA SABYA (Imp UK)

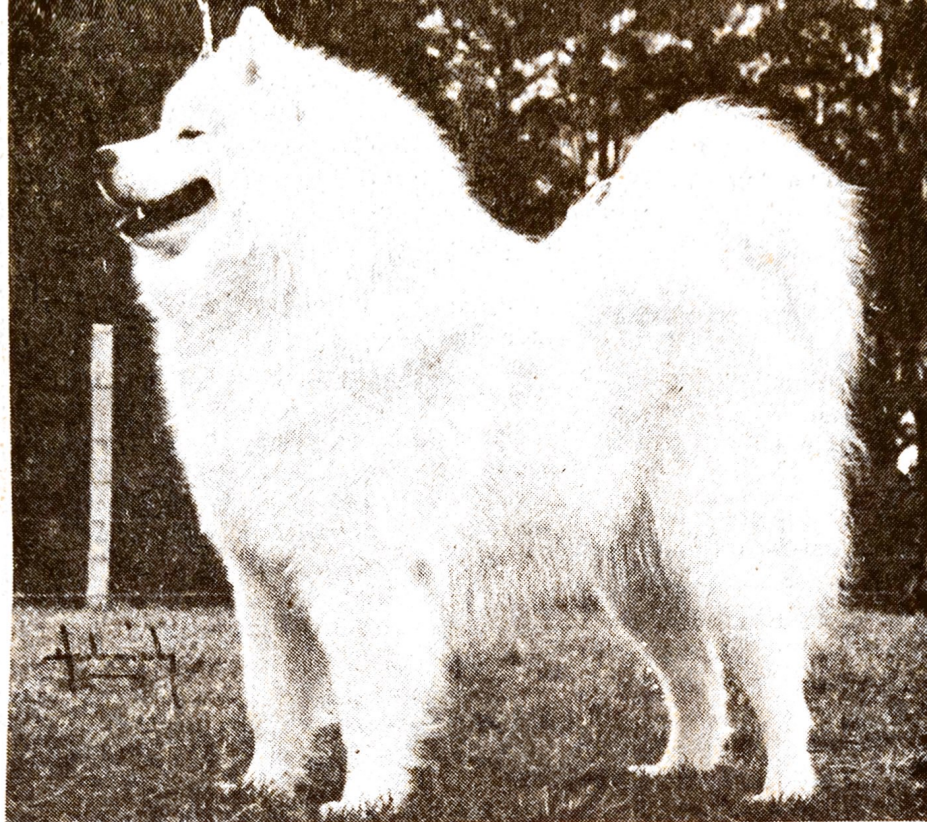
w 18/3/81 Sired by one of England's top studs Novaskaya Silva Starsun x Novaskaya Kings Rhapsody. No longer the ugly duckling but the beautiful swan. Bitch challenge winner 1982 Nationals. Sabby is the latest of our U.K. Imports

NOVASKAYA SLEIGH CHIEF (Imp UK)

w 18/5/79 (Eng Ch. Whitewisp Lunar Module x Novaskaya Kara) "Chiefie" is not a lover of the show ring & only makes the occasional appearance. He's content to be the family pet.

ENQUIRIES TO:—

Trevor A.R. and Eleanor B. Maitland,
21 Menzies Pl, Paeroa NZ Ph. Paeroa 7147



Presenting our foundation bitch from England: — **CH. NOVASKAYA GEORGIA MIST** w 1/7/80
(pictured at right)

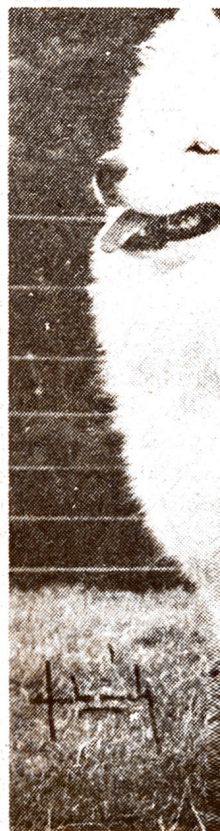
Sire: Novaskaya Silva Starsun

Dam: — Novaskaya Georgia Peach

Personally selected when we visited the UK early 1981. "Kiki" impressed us immediately. We exhibited her whilst there under breed specialist Mrs Irene Ashfield (Kobe Knls) whose critique read "Attractive head, dark smiling eyes, flat skull, small thick ears, good pigment, strong body with good chest & bone, very thick coat. I wish her well in NZ with her new owner".

Under judge Mrs Furst-Danielson (Sweden) at the 1981 Nationals who awarded her the Bitch CC said "My winning bitch was an elegant bitch & a young one & I hope she will mature a little more". Kiki will be mated to Ch. Kimchatka Sun Heritage this Spring — a line breeding on Whitewisp Odin & Eng Ch. Whitewisp Lunar Module, 3 times Best of Breed at Crufts & top stud in England for 3 years.

Awards: — Junior Bitch of the Year for APSA 1981, SCI 1982 & DSC 1982.



did admirable service. Used right through the war it saw service in Mesopotamia, Egypt and France, standing the test nobly.

It's a Dog's Life

As a family pet the samoyed knows no peer.

Their temperament, characterised by an ever smiling face - a prized feature of the breed - makes them ideal companions for young and old alike.

Considering their natural habitat and the fact that in the past they were used as an extra blanket in winter, their love of people is easily understood. Their rightful place is with the family and it is a unique feature of the breed that they will "talk" - yodelling deep in their throat on matters they feel they must express an opinion.

The samoyed's sense of humour is well known and many tales are told of dogs which just loved to be dressed up and old-lady samoyeds which ran the entire household.

The breed has an independent nature with a very definite mind of its own, weighing up the pros and cons of an order before deciding to obey.

But it is in the show ring that the true glamour of these dogs can be seen.

The samoyed's breathtaking white or biscuit coloured coat with its ice-sheen tips is unsurpassed.

Arrived as Sledge Dogs

The samoyed first came to New Zealand in 1899 among the sledge dogs of the Newnes-Borchgrevink Antarctic expedition.

About 30 dogs - huskies, Russian collies and a few white samoyeds - were landed on Native Island, near Stewart Island, on the return journey.

This was after a plea was made to the New Zealand Government to allow them to live.

Quarantine regulations demanded they be destroyed, however the Hon. Mr Joseph Ward, then Minister of Internal Affairs - later to become Prime Minister - gave his blessing.

Sir Joseph seems to have been captivated by the breed for he became the first registered breeder of samoyeds in New Zealand, after being given a breeding pair by Captain Robert Scott in 1901.

But when it was later realised that an expedition had gone south without knowing of the sledge dogs on Native Island, all but the samoyeds were destroyed.

They were bred from and some of their puppies sold.

However all but one bitch, kept by the warden of Native island as a pet, were collected by Shackleton on his expedition south in 1907.

Between the Newnes-Borchgrevink and Shackleton expeditions, samoyeds also made their way here - with Captain R F Scott and his Discovery expedition.

On his return, Captain Scott presented five samoyeds - three bitches and two dogs - to the Wellington Zoo.

In 1911 the zoo imported further samoyeds, from Denmark and in 1915 from England - the last import from England as late as 1934.

However in 1941 the last zoo litter was bred - incorrectly reported in the newspapers as "the first samoyed litter bred in New Zealand."

In 1942, the young dogs and puppies from the zoo litters were sold to the public and the samoyed section closed.

But Christchurch saw its first samoyed long before then. Three English samoyeds were

given to Scott for his 1910-13 Antarctic expedition.

Scott however, considered them "primitively exotics" unfit for the arduous task ahead of them. He preferred instead the dogs straggling from the Ostiak and Samoyede tribes of Northern Siberia.

One of the three died on the voyage to New Zealand and the two others and several puppies which had been born on the journey were given to Scott's friends in Christchurch.

With New Zealand the starting point for many expeditions south, the breed increased though few were registered with the dog showing body - the New Zealand Kennel Club.

Some were registered late in life, presumably to confer a little prestige to the progeny or so that they themselves would be eligible for exhibiting.

The breed was first known here as "esquimaux" or "eskimo". It was not until 1932 that "samoyede" now samoyed, officially overcame "esquimaux."

Faced with the very small numbers of the breed in New Zealand, early samoyed breeders were often found lurking on wharves waiting for the expedition ships to dock for supplies.

Accompanied by their bitches in season, the breeders chose a suitable mate from the ship's samoyeds.

Some of the present day samoyeds are the direct descendants of these dockside romances, their sire going back, to a dog "off the Nimrod."

Following the expedition dogs and puppies which arrived in New Zealand by more dubious means - including it's said, several puppies smuggled ashore in a doctor's bag - a number were imported from England and Australia in the mid and late 1930s.

How the Samoyed Dog Received its Name

The Interesting History of the Introduction of the breed to Britain

by E. Kilburn Scott, AM Inst. C E.

As there is a desire to learn something of the early history of the Samoyed breed of dogs, in the starting of which I was a prime mover, the following particulars will be of interest.

In the Spring of 1889 I was a passenger on S S Sunlight to Archangel in the White Sea, which during the winter months is closed with ice, ours being the second to get through. Whilst timber was being loaded, I noticed some men, short in stature and Eskimo-looking, who were eating raw fish by putting a strip in the mouth and with an upper movement of a knife cutting off a piece. Being informed they were Samoyeds and that there was an encampment some miles out on the tundra, we went with a Russian friend. Tundra is the name for marshy ground on which grow the particular mosses or lichens that are staple food for the reindeer.

We spent an interesting time visiting families in the "Chooms" of reindeer skin, and learnt something of their habits, also about the reindeer etc. There were many dogs running about and picking up an alert looking puppy I remarked on its plumpness; as the guide said that they might eat it as a change from the

reindeer meat, I purchased it. Later I found the Samoyed name for dogs was "Voinaika" - and the Russian name "Laika" meant "barking dog", presumably to distinguish that domesticated breed from wilder animals or wolves that howl.

The Samoyeds are an aboriginal race who from time immemorial have inhabited terrain adjacent to the Arctic Circle, which produces mosses or lichens that are the food for reindeer. At one time when the ice cap was over Europe, there were reindeer in the South of England and in France, so climatic conditions must have been much the same there as they are now in North-East Russia and North-West Siberia. When the edge of the ice cap receded, the reindeer followed Northwards. Most of the country between the White Sea and Yenisei River in West Siberia, including Kanin and Petchora districts, and islands of Waigatz, Kolguev and Novaya Zemlya consists of tundra. It is there that the Samoyeds roam about. There are also Yurak and Ostiak tribes, and the Lapps are of the same stock. Ostiak dogs have shorter fur and are coloured.

Their chief occupations are raising herds of

reindeer and hunting fur-bearing animals which were the occupations of pre-historic Chancelade men who first domesticated the reindeer. To help the herding of these animals as well as for hunting etc., dogs were developed, probably from white wolves. In the Rothschild Museum at Tring there are some Siberian white wolves. Samoyeds are today carrying on the same life with reindeer and dogs just as did the reindeer men of prehistoric times. For that reason I think their dogs are the oldest breed.

Being essentially a nomadic race, they are always moving about; in fact, have to do so in order that the large herds of deer may find plenty of their staple food. Ordinarily they use the reindeer for hauling sledges, but there are of course, times and places when food is difficult to obtain and then they use dogs. They also use them for hauling boats along or across the many streams that intersect the tundra. As a result the dogs have a strong chest and hindquarters, sturdy - (*not long) - legs and feathered feet; some have almost human intelligence.

On returning to England my dog attracted

attention, and I showed him in Leeds in 1893 and then at Birmingham in the foreign dog class. By this time the question of a suitable name had arisen, and being often asked for particulars, I naturally talked about Samoyeds. I came to the conclusion that it would be best to adopt that name for the dogs.

We began to breed in 1896 with a bitch obtained from another ship trading to the White Sea, and with dogs purchased from those brought back from Polar expeditions. Two were Pearlene and Russolene, which had been born in Franz Joseph Land, from dogs used on the Jackson-Harmsworth Expedition. Pearlene became first champion and was pure white with round tipped ears and a quaint polar-bearish look.

I found that the Dowager Lady Sitwell had a fine white dog called Musti, and another called Jacko was in the Sandringham Kennels, Major F G Jackson having given it to Queen Alexandra. We bred with both these and, as puppies had to be given from each litter, they were passed on to members of the aristocracy, so the Samoyed had a good start and much picture magazine publicity. For this Mr T Fall made excellent photographs.

The reason why Samoyed dogs came to be used in polar expeditions was because so many Eskimo dogs had been taken from Greenland. The Government became concerned about the well-being of the Eskimo people, who naturally depend a good deal on well trained dogs. Nansen was probably the first to use Samoyed dogs on a North Pole Expedition, and he was closely followed in 1894 by Major F G Jackson, who had previously made a journey across the Samoyed country. This he describes in his book "The Great Frozen Land", and gives a good description of the dogs rounding up a herd of deer when some of them were to be lassoed.

The Duke of Abruzzi, brother of the King of Italy, led another expedition and in 1899 Sir George Newnes financed one that went to the Antarctic and was led by C E Borchgrevink. He was the first to use sledge dogs on the Antarctic. Many of the teams of dogs were collected by a Russian trader called Sibirakoff and some were shipped from Archangel, being temporarily kennelled there in the garden of Mr Henry Cook, the British Vice-Consul. When I called on him he showed me a fine dog that the trader had given him.

He translated into English a book called "A Russian Province of the North", written by Alex Engelhart, Governor of the Province of Archangel. He was interested in the well-being of the Samoyed tribes and in 1894 arranged for a number to be settled in Novaya Zemlya to increase the population. They were under the protection of the Government, which sent a ship twice a year with food and goods and brought back skins etc. These were passed to an official agent for sale to ensure that the natives got fair prices. It was an early example of the method of communal living that has been much developed in Russia. The Samoyed people are kindly, cheerful, hospitable and eminently sociable. Mr Rae considered them superior in generosity and general character.

In 1904 I took an appointment at the University of Sydney, Australia, and going one day to the Zoo was pleased to find a fine Samoyed dog descended from some that had been taken to the Antarctic by Borchgrevink. See his book "First on the Antarctic Continent". When later Mrs Kilburn Scott and the

Family came out, they often went to see "Antarctic Buck", as he was called, and finally when we returned to England he came with us. After going through quarantine he was bred with other dogs and when shown took the Five Pound Cup of the Samoyed Club for the best dog. He sired several litters and gave stamina to the breed, so that his name in a pedigree is an asset.

In the early days so little was known about Arctic breeds of dogs, and particularly Samoyeds, that I wrote many articles. I did not keep to the dogs, but gave information about the people, their mode of life, etc. Mr A Trevor-Battye, F Z S, had written a very informative book called "Icebound on Kolguev", in which he says: "This book, if it shows anything, will surely reveal the Samoyed as an extremely intelligent man, far and away more so than the Red Indian." He describes the driving and retrieving of Brent geese etc.

The Press was helpful, and especially the veteran journalist, Mr Will Hally. Mr Cruft readily provided separate classes for Samoyeds. In 1912 a moving picture was taken of the dogs by Chas. Urban's kinema-colour which was shown at the Scala Theatre and afterwards in New York. We lent a sledge team of dogs to the London Hippodrome for a play in which there were a dozen polar bears from the Hagenbeck Zoo. Later, at the Wembley Exhibition and the Royal Tournament, we lent sledge teams; also a sledge that Borchgrevink had used in the Antarctic, which is now in the Scott Polar Institute at Cambridge.

It may be of interest to mention that Captain Robert Scott took several of our dogs on the "Terra Nova" in 1910, but not for use. He, it will be remembered, was persuaded by Captain Oates to try Siberian ponies for the sledges, which failed partly through lack of food. They had therefore to haul the sledges themselves, and it was mainly that which led to the tragedy. If they had had a good team of dogs they would have got through, as did Amundsen and Perry. Dogs can be used for food as well as for hauling, and their woolly undercoat resists the severest cold.

During the war we took the kennels at Farningham in Kent which had originally been built for the progeny of the famous Waterloo

Cup winner, Fullerton, owned by Col. J T North, the "Nitrate King". It was there that the famous "Farningham" strain of Samoyeds was built up by Mrs Kilburn Scott and our second daughter, Ivy. Many kennels were supplied and dogs sent to America, Canada, France, Germany, Holland, Spain, New Zealand, Australia, Far East, China and Japan etc. the latter part of Farningham Kennels first started in 1896.

In 1909 the breed was registered by the name "Samoyed" which I had popularised and a club was started with Mr Dalziel as President. Ladies were then, as they have been since, the principal supporters, amongst them being the Hon. Mrs McLaren Morrison, Miss R Packe (a niece of Lady Sitwell), Mrs Cammack and Mrs Tynne. Mrs Lansberg had a bitch - Ayesha - imported by Mr Colman, a founder member of the Samoyed Club. Later Mrs D L Perry and Miss Keyte-Perry became, and are now, very keen enthusiasts. Mrs Edwards owned Champion Kara Sea, a remarkably fine dog from Mustan and Zahrina of Farningham, descendants of Champion Pearlene and Antarctic Buck.

In case someone asks about colour, I would say that although pure white is generally accepted as being most correct, dogs with biscuit colour round the ears, or a wholly cream colour, are as good. The Samoyeds themselves do not bother about colour. What they want are stamina, alertness and intelligence. The dogs certainly have intelligence, and have been called "the breed with the smiling face and human brain." Although they are always as non-sporting dogs at shows, they are really a working dog and are very keen in hunting. A group of them will tackle a bear - indeed, Samoyed hunters train some of their dogs specially for that.

The coat is an important feature and consists of long hairs that glisten with wool underneath that has "Fulling property" like that of crossbred sheep. It can be made into attractive jumpers and cloth. Samoyed women are very expert in making fur garments which they sew with sinews and decorate along the edges with dog fur.

* Present Standard asks for moderately long legs - U S A Standard asks for legs to be 55% of height at shoulder.

Spinning Samoyed Wool

by Ethel Stefanik — from the The Complete Samoyed

Spinning is one of the oldest handicrafts known to man. The spinning of Samoyed wool is a fascinating, rewarding and useful hobby. Strong and virtually weatherproof, it can be either knitted or woven, and many lovely garments can be made of it. Since we want the spun wool to be as soft and fine as possible, it is best to use only the undercoat. If it happens to be a year that the dog sheds a lot of his guard hair, that should not be saved. It is too coarse, and makes the wool scratchy, though a little of it adds strength to the wool. The short hair from the legs should not be unpleasant to spin, though it can be washed before spinning if great care and many hours of working are taken with it. When the dog first begins to blow coat, he should be bathed, then the undercoat combed out and packed

loosely in plastic bags or kept in a covered container.

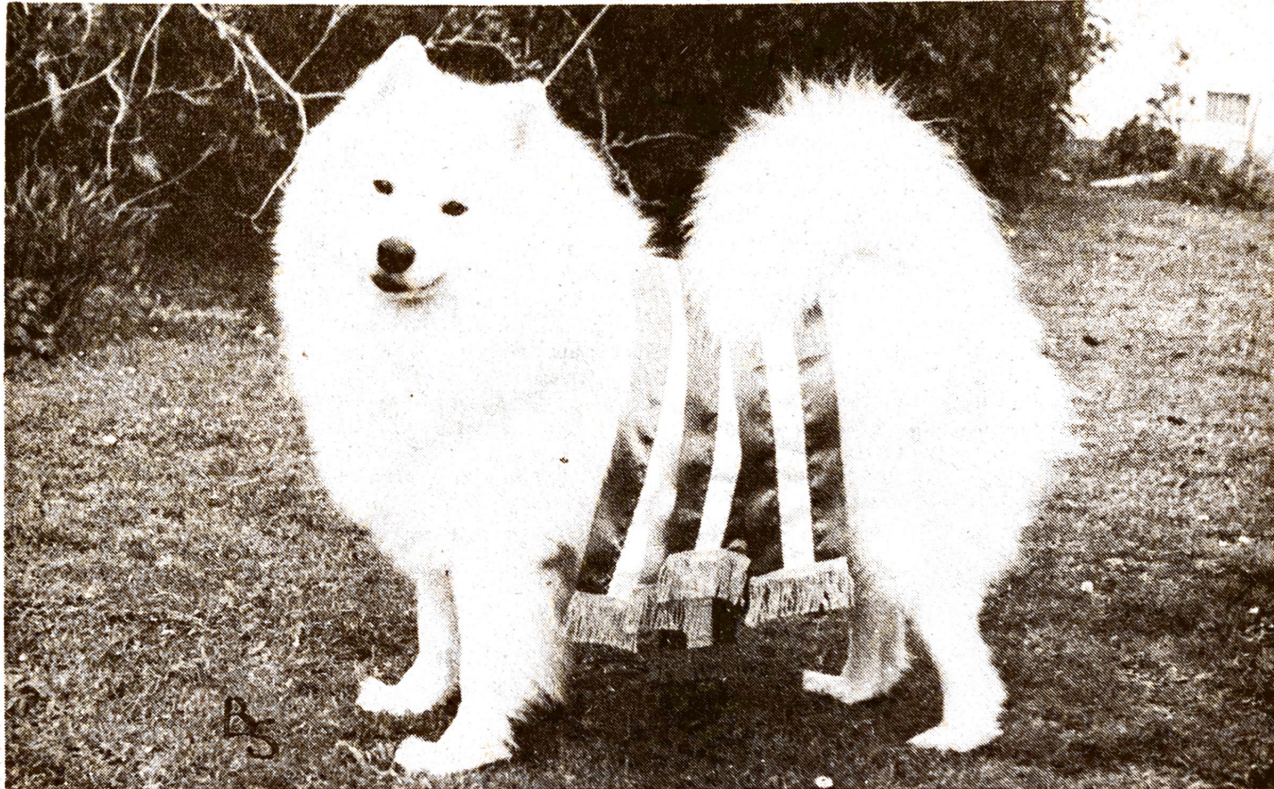
In order to spin the wool, it must be carded, so any mats have to be thrown out. If the wool cannot be carded it cannot be spun. The wool is taken from the cards in what is called a "roleg" and it is in this state that it is spun. The small electric spinner is easier to use than the wheel, and for the novice spinner is the best type to get. After the wool is spun, it is taken off the bobbin to what is called a "swift". This should be a hardwood, and makes the "skein". It is then tied in four or five places to keep it from tangling, and is washed in a good mild soap. It will shrink a bit with the first washing, but will only shrink the once. It can be washed in quite hot water without harm.

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The Working Samoyed

or Beauty is only Skin Deep

by Mr B. McManus (1970)

From the beginning, man has used dogs for work, and the Samoyed dog has worked, and worked hard, through "100's" of years and, it can be stated, "even beyond the call of duty."

This breed of dog received very little reward for this work, (excepting perhaps preferential feeding), and a few mistakes in hunting or herding the reindeer, pulling the kayak type canoe across rivers, guarding against wolves, polar bear baiting, or just being a household dog; resulted in some lucky member of the family receiving a Samoyed skin towards a coat at a future date. The above arduous work along with the death penalty plus mother nature at her worst, saw only the soundest (body and mind) Samoyed around their owners' chooms.

In those days the Sams had to have speed (the reindeer can reach 40 miles per hour on hard ground over a short distance) to herd the reindeer. Strength to pull his paws out of 4/6 inches of snow with every stride hour after hour.

Strength and biting power to take on a 120lb wolf. Strength to pull a canoe up a fast flowing river. Agile and intelligent enough to make a polar bear reach for thin air, while bear baiting, and a wonderful disposition (for

they lived in the chooms with their masters and family).

These dogs were dogs and it did not take the western world long to see the possibility of using them commercially.

The great Nansen in 1891 was probably the first to use the Samoyed commercially (on a North Pole Expedition) and he was closely followed in 1894 by Major F G Jackson (who had seen the Sams at work in Siberia).

The Duke of Abruzzi (brother of the King of Italy) was in 1899 followed by C E Borchgrevink who was an Antarctic Explorer and was the first to use them there.

The ill fated Capt. R F Scott in 1901 also used Samoyeds in the Antarctic.

Then in 1910 Capt R F Scott on his famous South Pole Expedition had three Samoyeds (English breed) given to him for purpose of using them on his trek to the South Pole. One died on the first part of the voyage, while the other two were given away to friends of his in New Zealand.

YES, Capt. Scott had seen modern men and women try to better nature's breeding of the Samoyed and fail - for the Siberian Sammy

was far superior in working qualities to these English bred Sams. (The English breeders had beauty as their goat and working qualities came a poor second).

Through the years that followed, English bred Sams appeared (old photo's) that had the hallmark of working dogs, e.g. Antarctic Beau, Dimitri of Kobe, Keif, Polar Light of Farningham - and others.

These dogs seem to pop up every now and again and it was a good thing for Australia and New Zealand Samoyeds that one of this type found his way to our fair shores. "Starya of Kobe" was his name and this dog had classic working dog styling, but he also combined a wonderful flowing movement (he moved over the ground and not on it), so here was a working dog. Starya of Kobe proved in this part of the world that working dog styling and flowing action could win shows, in fact Best in Show at Australia's Biggest Show (Sydney Royal). He has also proved to me that he was the only Samoyed I've ever seen who could do the above work as set out by the old Samoyed tribes of yester-year.

Makes one think only one in (approx.) 1000 show dogs.

Gait

submitted by Val Auckram

I consider it incredible that the Samoyed Standard should gloss over this very important subject in such brief terms: ie "Movement: Should move freely with a strong agile drive showing power and elegance."

The American Standard goes a great deal further. "Gait: The Samoyed should trot - not pace. Moving at a slow walk or (slow) trot, they will not single track, but as speed increases the legs gradually angle inwards until the pads are finally falling on a line directly under the longitudinal centre of the body. As the pad marks converge the fore legs and hind legs are carried straight forward in travelling, the stifles not turned out nor in. The back should remain strong, firm and level. A choppy or stilted gait should be penalised."

In 1966, at my request, greater detail was sent (and published in the N Z Showing) by Mel Fishback of the U S A, who is a world-recognised authority on movement in this Group. In sending the following she stated that her opinions are "tangled up with those of McDowell Lyon."

"Every gait of a natural working breed like the Samoyed should have ease and grace, and never display awkwardness or 'hard work', no matter what the speed.

Obviously, at the walk, the dog is carrying himself on three feet at all times. (The walk is a four-beat gait, with only one foot moving at a time). If a dog is fairly broad in structure, the most balanced position, in which he is most

comfortable, is one which supports him at all 'corners'. If a dog is 9" wide between the hips he will step 9" apart with his feet. If his elbows are 7" apart in an unposed stance, he will move with his pads 7" apart - all he is doing is supporting himself while he ambles along.

As the dog moves faster, the inclination to bring the feet inward to a centre line becomes more obvious. The physical reason is simple: At any speed beyond a walk, fewer and fewer feet are available to support the weight. The instant the dog assumes a trot he is no longer carrying himself on three feet, but only on two. And if he is moving correctly, the two feet will be either the right foreleg and left rear leg or the opposite pair. The more nearly in alignment - 'single tracking' - the supporting pair are, the less strain is involved in supporting the entire dog. Naturally at a slow trot the tendency to single-track will be less pronounced, but the instant the dog does break into a trot from a walk, the narrower base should appear. When the dog is moving at full trot - the preliminary to breaking into a gallop - he should come so close to single-tracking that the pad-marks almost converge completely.

The four legs should all move straight forward, regardless of the angle from pad to shoulder; the hind legs should not move further apart than the fore legs, nor vice versa. It would appear that at an extended trot one pair must spread to admit the other, but if the

dog is properly proportioned and muscled he will eliminate the possibility of interference by the quick motion that actually suspends the fat-trotting dog in the air, with all four feet off the ground, for a brief part of the sequence.

The most efficient movers will bring the body into balance over the legs as soon as possible when the speed is increased. This type of dog will not give any impression of 'drive' in front or rear, but he will travel the farthest with the minimum of effort.

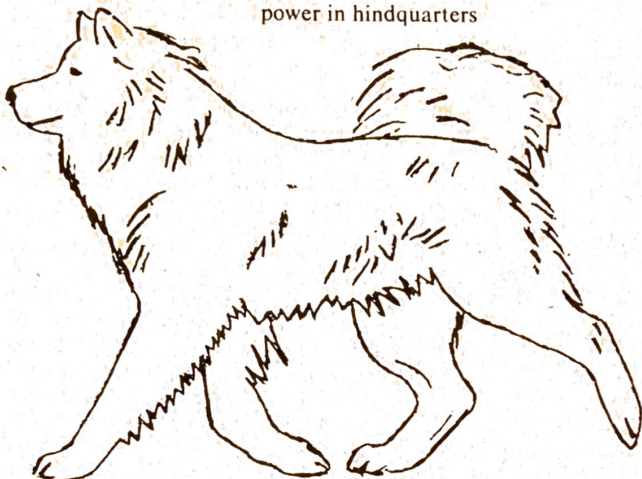
Everyone who has ever tried to ski will know that when he is skiing at a good speed, and he wants to turn, it is very awkward indeed to do so if his feet are spread far apart. On the other hand, if his skis are together and parallel, the slightest movement of his body will swing him around in a beautiful 'Christie' - and this is what we wish the Samoyed to do: Move forward with the least possible effort, in the best possible balance, and be free to turn without losing balance.

The only time a Samoyed, or other Northern dog, should show great 'drive' is at a very slow speed on a tight leash, or when attempting to pull a very heavy load up a steep hill or through very soft and deep snow. This is the only time a Samoyed should spread his legs apart and 'dig'. Certainly, if he is moving easily on a loose leash, he should evince only ease and freedom and efficiency, which means as close to perfect balance as his speed demands."

Samoyed in Action

Some Aspects of Movement

"Gait: should move with quick, agile stride, well-timed free, balanced, vigorous good reach in forequarters good driving power in hindquarters



"The back should remain strong, firm and level." Not rolling, or higher in front than in rear or vice versa.

"Reach" is measured from elbow to shoulder. It does not mean length of leg. Reach means freedom and length of stride. A choppy-gaited dog does not have reach.



The hind leg retains some angulation in action, although the judge can see the bottom of the pad. On the forward stroke, both hock and stifle bend



The hind leg does not go dead straight at every stride, but retains angulation and flexes strongly on the return.



What is the judge doing? He is feeling through the hair to find the stifle joint. A well let down stifle means reach in the rear. The stifle joint should set well below the body line to produce a long and strong gait



He finds reach by extending the foreleg to the front. The longer the distance from elbow to shoulder the more reach producing free and extended gait.

Dogs with elbow and stifle joints high in the body are invariably short-gaited. Lack of let-down goes hand in hand with cobbiness, as in chow whose stilted gait is traditional. Such a dog does not lend himself to prolonged activity, or work that requires endurance. Moving at a walk or slow trot, they will not single-track.... As speed increases, pad marks converge to a single line. the feet continue to point straight forward! Hocks should not turn in, or stifles out, to accomplish single-tracking at good speed. The converging of the feet applies to front as well as rear. The faster a dog moves, the lower head (for balance). String him on leash at high speed.... he will move wrong no matter how good a dog he may be.

"Balanced" means.... the front and rear work together. Any front or rear fault, or a weak back, can account for lack of balance. A dog of balanced structure looks good at any speed. Not so a poor dog, which may look bad when moving fast.

The forelegs should always point forward at any speed, elbows should be out, pads of forelegs should converge hind feet at fast gait.

The dog whose shoulder and with from side to side is not moving well.

Straight stifles produce a short-gait, hind legs become too straight stroke, front stride diminishes to balance. Dogs must move faster (legs make speed of well angulated dogs.

The mark of the foot of a straight stifle typically does not reach the mark matching forefoot, at slower speeds.



Suspect poor movement in dogs all four feet clearly (rear between front feet) when moving one set is faulted

Usually the wide pair. This can be checked from front or rear.

Keep feathering on hindlegs correct. If it tends inwards, your dog is cowhocked in action - over long nails in Sams, can shorten gait in rear, or 'break' and awkward gait in rear - break cut or worn down.



This dog is travelling too wide in the rear. Paddling in front.

Faults of Movement - Are So Easy to See

.... that one wonders why the judge doesn't seem to see them: (Haven't you?)"

Like the ever-present broad-based gait, that even at a slow walk near her own feet.

It's not confined to the female. A dog that single-tracks at any speed or appears bowlegged, is not moving well. Cowhocks are familiar but not a fault unless the dog is moving with no pull on the leash.

Unfortunately, many judges will not see a dog that moves very wide at any speed.

at a fast trot is unnatural. The Sam is supposed to be a natural breed. This sort of gait does *not* indicate drive, or anything except awkward action.

Did you know that *most* dogs, sound or not, will move cowhocked when they are pulling hard on a leash? If your dog is faulted for cowocks and you know he is not cowhocked, take time to teach him to gait on a loose lead.



The dog that crouches when starting to move, so rear is lower than front, is not a sound Samoyed. Back should remain level.



... But no better is the dog that jogs along with rear high above front. A common fault in Sams. Excusable in puppies. Never in adults.



Tight elbows, narrow front cause a dog to reach to the side as he moves. The front always looks stilted.



The dog that is out at elbows, or loose in shoulder, throws his feet out to the side. Again, the front may look powerful, with its heavy roll, but t'aint so. Straight, clean action wins shows - and helps a dog excel in any sort of active work. Paddling, weaving, plaiting are all terms covering bad front action. Many dogs have bad front movement because of overweight. Samoyeds tend to add fat behind the shoulder that can distort movement seriously. A dog with a tendency towards loose shoulders out at elbow should never allowed to become fat.

A Tribute to our Breed

Expressed by Linnea Stadig Staples, in *Western Kennel World, U.S.A.*

It is one of the greatest wonders that out of the barren cheerless wastes of the frozen tundras should come a creature of rarest loveliness. A creature to warm the heart and lift the spirit; a creature not to be compared with any other for it is truly a being unto itself.

Such a creature is the beloved *Samoyed*, possessed not only of beauty of body but of heart as well, fully conscious of the significance of its heritage of loyalty, compassion and understanding. And equally conscious so I believe, of the ageless purity of its breeding.

The breath-taking, heaven-lit whiteness of its coat reflecting infinite, inward warmth; the unmatched contrast of black nose and lips and pink tongue; the depth of soft, dark eyes pregnant with gladness and humour, as well as with wisdom and comprehension the ever-present, unobtrusive, freely-given companionship; a manner at once eager and dignified; all these are remarkably combined in this child of the Arctic.

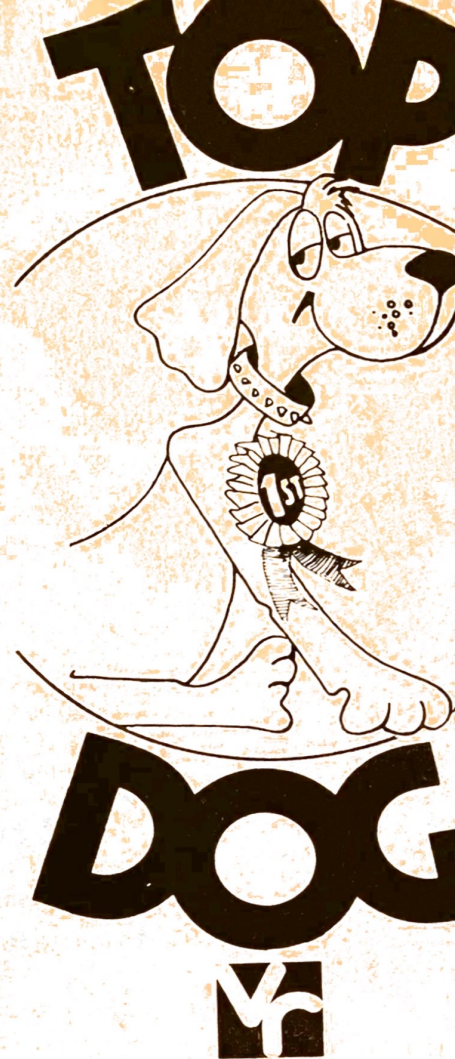
That such a one could be the product of a raging storm, of bitter cold, and of a relentless, never ending struggle for existence is a miracle that each of us could well take to himself.

Should not the ultimate result of our own hardships, strivings and hopes be an equal beauty of spirit, a like enthusiasm for life? Can we do less than match the compassion, eagerness, wisdom, the joyous participation in living.

If, to the stranger to the breed, these words so clearly expressed by the gorgeous Samoyed seem to be braggart exaggeration, proof is available to all.

Bring to your home and your heart a Samoyed and you will add your tribute to this end, in common with the rest of us, you will strive to find adequate words but will not be able to do so.

And you, too, will thank *God* for this exemplification of love, devotion and beauty.



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VISKAN OF TOLGA

Best Novice in Show Samoyed Club in Ch. Show 1982

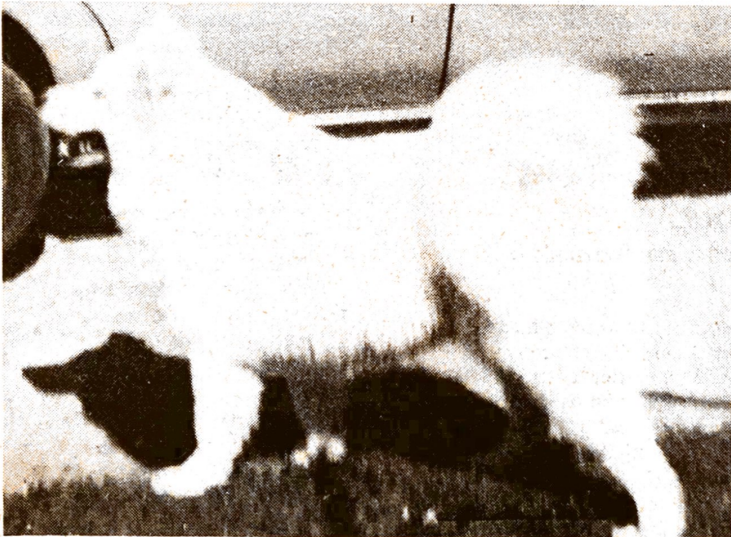
Best Puppy of Breed 1982 Tux National Dog Show

VICTORIA OF TOLGA

Best B. Puppy Bitch of the Year Samoyed Club in 1981

Best B. Puppy Bitch of the Year Auck. Prov. Sam Club 1981.

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Comments on the Standard

by Danny van Doorn

The Samoyed is not an easy breed to Judge - there is the height range, the question of coat colour, the interpretation of the terms 'happy medium', wedge-shaped, weight in proportion to size, and other not too well defined terms. Broadly speaking we look for a Samoyed that foremost is a working dog, almost symmetrically in proportion when viewed from the side, extremes should be avoided, and one that moves effortlessly. In short: *Type, Balance and Soundness* should be foremost in our minds.

Characteristics: The Samoyed is an intelligent animal. His constant companionship with man has given him a unique understanding of the human race, and this intelligence can be brought out if he is taught the right things. Samoyeds have successfully attained their titles in the conformation ring and have gone on to qualify as C D and C D X in the obedience field, sometimes simultaneously. These successes are highly commendable as the Samoyed is by nature independent and self reliant. His intelligence can be a challenge to his owner as the Samoyed spends his whole life out-thinking him. If he has been trained properly he will also possess an alert expression with an intelligent, sparkling almost penetrating look. A fit Samoyed is full of action, looks around him, and is keenly interested in everything within range. It is not natural for him to stand still for any length of time, he should always be ready to move quickly in any direction. An unfit, cloddy Samoyed is useless in his legitimate work of herding the reindeer, hunting bears or as a draught dog. Probably the most important requirement of the Standard is contained in the words: 'but above all displaying affection towards all mankind'. A Samoyed without this trait is untypical. They should always be friendly towards humans and any aggression towards anybody is unforgivable. They love people and like to be with them as closely as possible at all times, an inherited trait after living in the 'Chooms' with his owners for thousands of years. He was one of the family and his disposition had to fit into their communal society.

General Appearance: Although exhibited in the Non-Sporting group in Australia, the Samoyed is included in the Working Group in England, the U S A and many other countries. Underneath that snowy, silver tipped coat is a working dog, strong, fleet, agile, intelligent, adaptable and herder par excellence, and this fact should never be forgotten. The three words, 'strong and active and graceful' represent qualities so very essential to the breed. Good bone and muscle development, represents qualities so very strength, and coupled with this a Samoyed must be energetic, and possessing grace of movement. Heavy and weather resisting refers to a coat which insulates and protects the dog from the rigors of the harshest of climates.

His back is of a medium length and short coupled to give him the strength, agility and drive to carry out his true work of herding the reindeer and hauling loads. A deep chest and well sprung ribs are necessary to give him the breathing power and so stamina to enable him to travel for lengthy periods without tiring. His neck must be strong and moderately long,

proudly arched and gradually widening to the shoulders, his front must be straight and not too close together, nor out at the elbows. Loins must be exceptionally strong indicating a Samoyed must be kept at the peak of condition. Both dog and bitch should give the impression of being capable of great endurance; this is represented by an exceedingly powerful animal with tremendous steely muscles to give the drive necessary to move on hard terrain, and with long flat well tufted feet to give grip on ice and snow, with it should go elegance, coarseness to be avoided. A medium sized dog should stand about 21 inches, and a medium sized bitch 19 inches at the shoulder. Legs should be on the long side as a short legged Samoyed would not last very long in show trying to keep up with other dogs. So a very short legged dog is to be avoided. Hindquarters again calls for muscle, it is important that the stifles are well angulated so as to give the Samoyed the power and drive needed for their work. The angle of the stifles should measure approximately 45 degrees, straight stifles are definitely out and together with cow-hocks should be strictly penalised. All details of body and leg structure listed in general appearance are for that all purpose animals, the herder, the hunter, the hauler. These details give us a nimble yet sturdy looking dog that will not give up in the snow, ice or long chases of game.

Head and Skull: Should always be in proportion to body carried on moderately length neck - never short. Being a hunter, his wedge shaped head provides him with powerful jaws and teeth which permits him to rip and tear. The term wedge-shaped means the profile observed when the face is viewed from above and the face fringes are pushed back, straight clean lines with no thick cheeks to spoil the flow from just below the ear to nose. There should be a reasonable amount of depth as well as width to the muzzle. The width is essential to permit the wedge to taper without a snipy appearance and retain a broad skull. A narrow skull robs the head of its nobility. There should be a definite stop. Lips must be black and slightly curved up at the corners of the mouth adding to giving the Samoyed expression. The nose is black for preference, but may be brown or flesh coloured, the latter two changes occurring with age and weather. Hair short before the ears is self explanatory. One of the important characteristics of the Samoyed is his smiling expression. This is an absolute must for the breed if we are to maintain true to type. The smiling expression of the Samoyed is the result of a perfect balance of the features, let anyone be out, and the smile disappears. The formation of the smile is a most elusive thing to define but the shape, distance apart and angle of the eye in relation to ear placement, which is in turn dependent on the curvature of the mouth relative to the depth from the stop to the underjaw is the basis. It goes without saying that we must have a head without any glaring faults in the first place. Fault: long fore-face.

Eyes: Should be almond shaped with an upward 'Mongolian' slant, must be lined with black unbroken rims, and for colour be a rich sparkling brown. Those who insist on an eye so dark as to be nearly black, will not produce

the correct head and sweet expression. This must be set well apart. The typical Samoyed expression is indicated by a combination of sparkle of the eyes, animation and lighting of the face when alert on anything. Eyes that are too light, too dark or round detract from this important characteristic. Their eyes are deep set and protected by eyelashes from the driving snow. Fault: Blue or very light eyes.

Ears: The ears are most important. They are a distinctive feature of the breed, set well apart, thick, rounded at the tips and always fully erect in the mature Samoyed. Drop ears are out, for in a climate where only the fittest can survive, the ears need to be alert and capable of catching the slightest sound. To stop them from freezing they are extremely movable, and covered heavily with hair on the inside to keep out the snow. For size the Standard suggests a medium sized ear, precisely what is an acceptable ear for a Samoyed depends upon the all important aspect of balance of the whole head. Fault: Narrow width between ears, and big ears with little feathering.

Mouth: As the Samoyed must be able to cope with large pieces of meat and whole fish in his hunting expeditions, a full set of teeth and strong jaws are essential. The teeth should be sound, well set, snugly overlapping with scissor bite: ie the top teeth just resting over the bottom teeth.

Neck: The alert stance of the Samoyed is greatly enhanced by a strong neck which is proudly arched. A well laid and angulated shoulder will give him a good length of neck which should taper nicely into the shoulder with well developed muscles without being coarse. Fault: A bull neck.

Forequarters: Viewed from the front the legs should be parallel and straight, but not too close together, leaving room for a fair width of brisket. The pasterns should be strong, sturdy and straight but flexible with some spring for proper let-down of feet. The legs should be well muscled with good bone. Being a working dog heavy bone is to be avoided as he would become cloddy and lacking the speed, agility and grace to do his work as a herder, hunter or sled dog. Shoulders should be long and sloping, with the blades set ideally at an angle of 45 degrees. The angle between shoulder blade and upper arm approximately 90 degrees, this angulation and length of upper arm will give the dog the reach that is desired. Remember, it is not driving power that is required at the front of a dog, but reach. Fault: Absence of feathering.

Body: In appearance the Samoyed should give an impression of strength combined with activity, a deep chest, muscular body, good shoulders, extremely powerful loins indicative of a working dog blessed with pulling power and stamina to run all day. His body should be of medium length without being cobby or long enough to suggest possible weakness of back. Visualise him as being 'just off square', the length being slightly longer than his height at a ratio of 10 to 9. This is not due to a short body but to moderately long legs. Due to maternal duties bitches may be slightly longer in back than the dogs. The

shaped rib cage which extends to the elbows, and a brisket that is well defined. Although the chest must be broad and deep, he should not be barrel chested, heart and lung room being secured more by body depth than width. A fat Samoyed should not be tolerated. Fault: A long body.

Hindquarters: It is most important that the stifles are well angulated (45 degrees angle with ground) so as to give the Samoyed the power and drive for his work. With this must go well muscled upper and lower thighs which in turn will provide a strong and forceful drive so essential to obtain an effortless action. A fair length of hock is desirable. A well let down stifle means reach to the rear, the stifle joint should be set well below the body line so as to produce a long and strong gait. Lack of let down goes hand in hand with cobbliness, causing a gait that is short, choppy and lacking in drive; such a Samoyed does not lend himself to prolonged activity or work that requires endurance. So a straight stifled Samoyed together with the cow-hocked Samoyed is very objectionable. The latter is not hard to distinguish, the hind legs clearly reach out to the side when they move, the hind feet do not converge into a straight line as a normal dog should. The hindlegs should be parallel when viewed from the rear in a natural stance.

Feet: Another typical characteristic of the Samoyed is his feet. They should be long, flattish and slightly spread out, profusely covered with featherings on top of the feet, extending to the front and sides. The soles should be well padded with hair, firstly to afford a grip on rough icy surfaces and snow, secondly to protect the pads from being cut by ice, slivers of stone and frost bite. Small cat-like feet are useless as they would simply pierce the snow or sink in the soft marshy ground, the latter which can also be found in his homeland. Front feet are not quite so long as the rear ones. Feet should turn neither in nor out in a natural stance.

Gait: Showy movement should never be mistaken for good movement. The best conformed Samoyeds move with as little effort as possible. A smooth, precise fast gait is ideal. The feet should clear the ground by as small a margin as possible according to the type of ground on which the dog is moving. A Samoyed should be able to trot very fast without wavering or rolling. His back should remain absolutely level at any speed or trot, and he should not work his whole front or rear section excessively. He should reach far out in front of him, and well to the rear without

'leaving his feet behind'. His hind feet should track in the print made by the corresponding forefoot at a medium speed. He should not kick outward in either front or rear as he moves, and the faster he goes, the closer the feet should come to an imaginary line drawn down the middle of the dog's back. Forelegs should always point straight forward at any speed while the pads should converge as do the hind feet at a fast gait, in short a Samoyed single tracks at speed. Good driving hindquarters are not hind legs that go dead straight at every stride, but ones that retain angulation and flexes strongly on the return, so that one can see the bottom of the pads. The elegance is best seen from the side when a Samoyed is trotting. Fault: Any sign of unsound movement.

Tail: The tail is an essential part of the Samoyed's anatomy as it is used for protection of the nose and belly when sleeping in the snow. It should be long and well covered with long hair, terminating approximately at the hook when at rest. The best set tail is the one which is carried over and close to the back, with the long fur dropping to one side. The tail is an important part of the outline and should normally be seen over the back, however most Samoyeds will drop their tails when at rest and sometimes even when obviously interested in something. When on the move though the tail should be up at all times. Slack tail carriage, short tails, low set tails, gay tails and tails with double curls are undesirable.

Coat: One of the crowning glories of the Samoyed is a luxuriant double textured coat. In giving protection against severe climatic conditions, nature combined utility with beauty, the dense undercoat being weather resistant, and the stand-away top coat of longer and harsher hair being definitely dirt resistant. The harsh outer coat, when in healthy condition, should show a definite silver sparkle at the tips. Dogs carry a longer outer coat than the bitches, the latter also having a coat slightly softer in texture. Quality of texture and type of coat are more important than quantity. A soft coat, a wavy coat and the absence of undercoats are faults.

Colour: Pure white is preferred by most, however white and biscuit or cream is permitted and should not be penalised. Many Samoyeds develop some biscuit shading as they grow older, and in particular biscuit tipped ears are often seen. These are hereditary traits and not considered objectionable. Black hairs will be found on most Samoyeds, however if there are sufficient to form a black

spot, it is considered a fault, likewise an all black Samoyed (extremely rare) is a fault.

Weight and Size: Size of the Samoyed is the usual point of difference among breeders and exhibitors, this should not be, as the standard gives very definite guidelines as to what is permitted. It is clearly stated that a fully grown dog should stand 21 inches at the shoulder, and that the minimum and maximum heights for dogs and bitches are 20 to 22 inches and 18 to 20 inches respectively. These figures give quite an amount of latitude regarding height, a point which is not always remembered in the ring, for both ends of the scale should be acceptable. It must be borne in mind that the difference between the sexes should be easily recognised, the dog must look masculine and the bitch feminine. So, with the guidelines given, size must be considered in judging the breed, as a variance in size is as much a defect as variance in other respects. As far as weight is concerned, until 12 years ago the suggested weight range for dogs was 45 to 55 lbs, and for bitches 36 to 45 lbs. Nowadays' weight is in proportion to size, so obviously it is balance that has to be considered.

Finally, if the Samoyed in the show ring is to be judged as a working dog on the lines laid down by the Standard, please remember once more, we are looking for a medium, well-balanced dog. Extremes should be avoided, but good power and muscle are essential - in proportion to body size. Judge for correct type and sound movement and the breed future will be bright.

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I must express my sincere thanks to many authors past and present for information that I have gleaned over the years from reading their books and articles printed in the various Samoyed Club Newsletters in Australia, New Zealand, America and the U K. (All knowledge has to be acquired, and one never ceases to learn.)

The Samoyed

by K. O'Connor

Samoyeds, belong to the great family of the Arctic Spitz, which is divided geographically into two distinct groups. The first include the Huskie or Eskimo of Alaska, Canada, Labrador and Greenland, while the second comprises the true Spitz or Liaka group, which ranges from Lapland through the whole of the Siberian Tundra to Kamschatka.

The Laika are subdivided into distinct entities, made up of the geographical boundaries which the tribes and their dogs inhabit. Finnish Spitz and Elkhounds, used for hunting,

with similar coats to Samoyeds. Norwegian Buhund and the Siberian Husky from the Chuchi tribe which has a double soft coat.

The Chow and Pomeranian are also Laikas; in fact, the Chow is regarded by some authorities as being one of the basic breeds from which most of our present day Laika group has descended.

Named After Tribe

The Samoyed takes its name from the tribe of Mongolians who inhabit the vast Tundra

country from the eastern shores of the White Sea to the river Khantanga in Western Siberia. It is believed to be one of the oldest and most interesting native tribes and it has been suggested that they are direct descendants of the Chancelade or reindeer men of prehistoric times. Whatever their origin, however, it is an undisputed fact that these people have lived for untold ages in the Arctic Circle, raising herds of reindeer and hunting fur-bearing animals.

Contrary to general belief, Samoyed dogs

are not used to a great extent for sled work (reindeer pull the transport sledges) and the Samoyed dogs there are used for herding the great reindeer herds, as watchdogs, and more unusual still (so far as the North is concerned), as companions and members of the domestic circle. These dogs live within their owners' chooms and are not tethered out as are the breeds used as sled dogs.

During the four months of summer when the dogs moult, their hair is collected and spun and used for garments.

Importance of Reindeer

It may be interesting to note in passing that nowadays despite all the synthetic materials available of various types the importance of the reindeer is not limited to its usefulness as a transport animal or as a source of food, clothes and housing material for the tribes engaged in reindeer farming.

The hide, for example, when appropriately worked, provides high quality suede of importance to aviation, optical precision instruments and footwear in industry. From the young reindeer, beautiful light furs are made. Reindeer underwool, which is about 30% of a total reindeer's fur, is made into felt or spun and knitted. Garments from this are truly remarkable for their warmth and water-shedding properties. The antlers which are shed yearly, and made into glue, gelatine and bone-ware articles.

First Samoyed in England

The first Samoyed was imported into England by Mr Kilburn Scott, who in 1889, while waiting for timber to be loaded in to S S Sunlight, at the port of Archangel, noticed some of the men of unusual stature and habits and who had with them dogs that were very much a part of the family circle. He made enquiries and travelled many miles to their encampment to make the acquaintance of these people. As he was leaving he picked up a particularly fine puppy and was promptly presented with it as a gift to his wife.

This puppy, named Sabarka, was a dark biscuit in colour and was exhibited for the first time in Birmingham Show in 1894 in the foreign dog class. He won a prize and such was the interest taken in him that Mr Kilburn Scott obtained a bitch, Whitey Petchora, and bred the first Samoyed litter in England. He named his Kennels Farningham, and many dogs in the ring today, even in New Zealand, can trace their ancestry back to these Kennels.

Establishing The Type

In 1896, the Kilburn Scotts began the breeding operations which were to establish the Samoyed on the show bench as a dog breeding consistently to a recognised type. From many sources over a period of time, they assembled their material, and imports were made by other breeders. When they had eight

strains available, Mr and Mrs Kilburn Scott drew up the Standard of Points for the breed.

The Samoyed dog, as we know it today, is natural in the sense that it is not the product of a blend of breeds, but it is, or ought to be, the product of controlled and selective breeding to preserve the most important points which are those - never let it be forgotten - of a working dog whose beauty and rightness is in direct ratio to his powers of work and adaptation to climatic conditions.

Used by Explorers

Samoyeds have been used by many explorers in the past for sled work, and the question raised is why? It would appear that the main reason was that the Danish Government would not allow Eskimo tribes in Greenland and adjacent territory to sell their dogs as they depended for their livelihood on these dogs. Consequently it was to the Samoyeds around Archangel that Nansen and Jackson went to obtain the teams that were to perform so wonderfully and were to be treated so badly.

Early Breeders

Mrs Stuart Thynne, Miss Marker, Mrs Gray Landsberg, The Hon. Mrs McLaren Morrison and Mrs Cammock were among the early breeders who continued along the lines laid down by the Kilburn Scotts. Mrs D Edwards bred Ch. Tiger Boy and Susie and they were the sire and Dam of Ch. Kasea of Kobe, and early Champion of the Kobe Kennels. Mrs D L Perry's Kobe Kennels are world renowned and have had a great influence on Australian and N Z Kennels.

The late Miss Keyte Perry, founder of the famous Arctic Kennels was tireless in her work for the betterment of the Samoyed breed. Her book (unfortunately out of print), is a mine of information and faithfully records the history of this lovely breed.

Standard of the Breed

It is unfortunate that the American and British Standard differ, more especially in size. This has caused confusion at times regarding the correct height according to the Standard accepted as correct in this country. The persistence of some breeders sacrificing pigmentation and correct coat texture for the "pristine white" coats is to be deplored as we see specimens today who would surely freeze to death with their soft droopy coats if taken back to their native habitat.

Large fat lumps covered with soft coat or shallow chested, slack bodied specimens with bad hind movement could never get by if both judges and breeders were, one and all, more actively aware than they sometimes appear to be, that the Samoyed, despite the Non Sporting classification in this country), is a working dog. We have reason to be proud of our Samoyeds in this country.

High Honours For N Z Bred Samoyeds

Samoyeds have taken top Group and Show awards many times.

Distinctive Personalities

The Samoyed is a strong individualist; each of them is a very special blend of the breed characteristics of intelligence, friendliness, gaiety and companionableness, plus that irrefragable palpable personal spark.

As a pet his physical beauty with silver glittering coat, and radiant smiling face invests his owner with a very pleasing distinction. It must be repeated that the Samoyed is happiest in close association with his human friends, as is only natural, when one remembers how he was kept natively. In this respect he is very adaptable for he can live in a house, flat or hotel, sensibly and happily. To sleep by, and occasionally on, his master's bed seems to be every Sam's ambition. An ambition gratified by many Samoyed owners who find a well trained Samoyed a most clean and agreeable room mate, not to mention splendid reinforcement of the eiderdown on winter nights!

He is patient and forbearing with children indeed with everybody (although he rather likes you to respect his feelings as he will respect yours). He can be an excellent guard dog and is reasonably obedient, although too independent for the rigid response and discipline of a police dog.

Adaptability

An interesting and rather unexpected revelation of the adaptability of this long coated dog is his adaptability to climate. He can flourish in considerable heat and, in fact, dogs exported to climes such as Jamaica and nearer home, Fiji, have thrived and bred good stock.

A fine, bonny dog, is the Samoyed, a good companion above all else, and we can rejoice that normally they reach a ripe and vigorous old age.

Postscript

My mother who recently celebrated her 100th birthday and who bred Chows in her teens, remembers seeing Samoyeds at show before the *First World War*.

She thinks they were shown under Foreign Breeds at the Cheltenham and Crystal Palace Shows. She also remembers Queen Alexandra in Hyde Park with servants leading both Chows and Samoyeds.

My Father, (a Master Mariner), was caught at Archangel by the winter and during his ship's enforced stay, he saw many sled teams. They ran races and the endurance of man and dog was tremendous. He said that many of his crew wanted to take puppies back to U K, but as distemper was rife in both countries at that time (about 1910), he forbade them.

Canine Behaviour

by Mrs E. B. Maitland

If one spends the time and has a lot of patience, one can learn an enormous amount about animal behaviour by observation alone. Many programmes have been televised on animals in their natural habitat, and it is a most engrossing subject to delve into. From animal behaviour, both vocal and non-vocal,

we understand what survival is all about - the weak versus the strong, and when animals live in a domesticated environment with human intervention, just where we fit into the picture.

For example, within the animal Kingdom, there is a pecking order, or hierarchy scale if you like. Animals are put in their place by

their peers when they display bad manners unacceptable by the others in the family group. Each member of the "family" has its place in the pecking order, and this is governed by the strength of the individual in relation to the strength of the other group members. Of course, the strongest are those

who play the major roles in the propagation of the species - the weaker ones, giving way to the strength of the superiors, or laying prey to natural predators, invariably having no part in the breeding. However, human intervention has changed this situation, thus some present day domesticated animals are often bred from weak progenitors.

Reverting to the pecking order, imagine if you would, a dog happily engrossed in the enjoyment of chewing a bone, when along comes another dog who stands very close, he inflates himself to appear much larger than he otherwise is, he emits a low pitched sound from his throat. Dog No. 1 (the bone chewer) makes a feeble effort at objecting, but this has no effect on Dog No 2, so Dog No 1 then walks away from his "prize" slowly, giving the impression he was disinterested anyway, and Dog No 2 steps in and stalks off with the bone. This is a typical display of Dog No 2 displaying his dominance over Dog No 1, who in turn displays his submission by leaving the bone to the dominant intruder. A seemingly innocent scene, but a definite display of who's who in the pecking order. there are several ways a dog will display his dominance. He may choose to stand close to another dog, reach his neck very high and place it over the shoulders of the other dog. He may choose the ambush method, where he lays in wait and pounces on the unsuspecting passer-by, or he may choose to display a fixed stare, where he seemingly mesmerises his opponent.

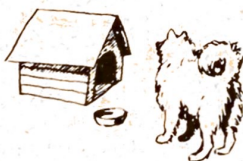
Likewise with dominant behaviour, submission can be displayed in many ways in

order to avoid trouble. A dog may crouch low on the ground, pin his ears back, may even wriggle his hindquarters, and try to lick his opponent in a nervous friendly gesture, or he may urinate or roll over on his back exposing his abdomen. The latter is total submission.

Now, how do the human members of the family fit into this picture. To have complete control over your canine family group, it is essential that you know how animals behave amongst themselves. Humans do not necessarily occupy the top of the hierarchy scale, in the eyes of the dog. Again, this is dependent entirely on the strength of the human individual in relation to the strength of the dogs. Take the neurotic dog for example - are they really neurotic, or is it just sheer cunning on their part. A neurotic dog is usually associated with a neurotic owner, who pampers to their dog's every need and whim. Now just who is running who? There exists "Dog Psychiatrists" in some countries - what next! Dogs have more intelligence than a lot of people give them credit for, it's just that some become so confused with all the mumbo-jumbo they are given by owners who have a lack of understanding of the canine needs. Some owners wonder why they cannot get "through" to their dogs when they are chastising them for some wrongdoing. Perhaps this is because some owners chastise their dog some considerable time after the "event" leaving the dog wondering why they are being punished. If you don't catch the dog in the act of misbehaving, then it is quite useless to punish the dog, for he knows not, why he is being



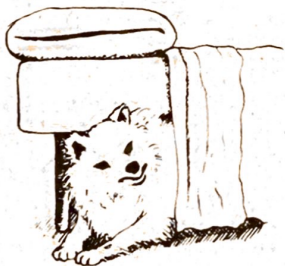
My name is Tara



I'm 'posed to live here



THEN I TRY TO



But I mostly live here



We go for "walks"



AND CAUGHT POSSU



AND RIDE IN "CAR"



SOMETIMES I "bad girl"



I TIRED NOW

History of the Dominion Samoyed Club

The Dominion Samoyed Club Inc. celebrates its 25 Anniversary this year since it was founded in 1957 by two of the most stalwart Samoyed owners of that day. The Dominion Samoyed Club Inc. is the oldest Samoyed Club in New Zealand since February 12, 1957, when a meeting of dedicated breeders met in the Heretaunga Boating Club's building on the Petone foreshore.

It was here that the two founding members, Mrs Pearl Wilson and Mrs Val Auckram, saw the fruits of their labours realised. The Club was on its way with Mr and Mrs L A Auckram, Mr and Mrs N Draper, Mrs D Homan, Miss G Howes, Mr and Mrs R Morris, Mr J Penney and Mr and Mrs D Renner being the foundation members.

By May 1957, the Club had received recognition from the N Z K C as well as

receiving incorporation from the Incorporated Societies Office.

The aim of the Club is still the same today - to promote the breed and advise and help owners and those interested, in the welfare and betterment of the breed.

It was also in May that an Obedience Section functioned under the gentle guidance of the late Sgt. Frank Riley who came to New Zealand from England to set up the Police Dog Training School at Trentham. Frank Riley gave his Sunday mornings willingly for the D S C Obedience and many owners were grateful for his invaluable instruction for some of the more wayward members of the breed. It is interesting to note that last year was the Silver Jubilee of the Police Dog Training School.

Not content with their achievements, Mrs Pearl Wilson and Mrs Val Auckram decided

to write a book about the Samoyed. This book "The Samoyed - New Zealand" is the bible of the Samoyed in New Zealand. It was first published in 1961 with a second printing in 1966 being an enlarged edition, and is believed to be the only book encompassing a Pedigree Section tracing the first dogs brought to New Zealand.

This book is widely respected overseas, and made a considerable impact with American owners and breeders.

In 1963 the Club moved to Christchurch where it continues to thrive. In 1968 the Dominion Samoyed Club gained its First Championship show, drawing 53 entries. Being the 25th Jubilee Year, the Club is holding a Smorgasbord Dinner planned for past and present members alike, on Saturday Evening, November 13th 1982.

Colour in the Samoyed Coat

by John and Paddy Watts, "Samivahn"

"Colour: Pure white; white and biscuit; cream.

Fault: Black or black spots." (Extracts from Breed Standard).

History as it relates to colour:

When the Samoyed was becoming recognised in U K at the turn of the century, after prolonged development in the isolation of the Arctic circle, they were a coloured breed. Shades of cream and biscuit predominated but colours actually ranged from icy-white to cream, through beige, to the colour of an overcooked biscuit.

However, the shimmering white coat stood out - not only because there were a few exceptional specimens - but because it was so spectacular and unusual compared to the many tan or brown breeds then current. Naturally in these formative years, individual preference most frequently dictated a breeding programme to attain the lightest and whitest tones possible and this general objective still holds for most breeders today.

After several generations of pure white breedings, however, pigmentation suffered - with lips, noses and eyerims degenerating from black to tan, and ultimately to pink. Eyes lightened, and continued breeding of this type produced albinism.

Importance of Colour:

Many Samoyed owners or breeders of long standing accept the particular beauty and quality of a delicately shaded dog but usually these preferences are not purely for aesthetics. The shaded outer coat has been commonly found to be more profuse and harsher in texture, so necessary for survival in adverse environments and it was found that a biscuit stud dog or dam was necessary for the preservation, not only of pigment, but of other breed characteristics as well.

Paradoxically, these dogs will often produce pups having brilliant white, harsh coats with the coveted silver-tipped sheen, together with vivid black points and eyes.

The influence of this colouring is underscored in the earlier writings of Will Hally,

a noted all-round judge and long time Samoyed breeder:

"Of course, I suppose that most of us do prefer, if it comes to preference, the whites (snow sheen, not the abominable dead whites) to the biscuits; admittedly that is a preference in appearance but there is not one old experienced breeder who will tell you that, whatever be the reason, a dash of biscuit blood brings back when lost and increases when present, real Samoyed excellence it must not be thought that biscuit colour will in itself supply excellence, there are some inferior Samoyeds with biscuit tinges, but if you get a really first-rate biscuit coloured Samoyed, you will never find such an animal to other than improve your stock with which it is blended."

"In all the 40 years I have known and bred Samoyeds, I have never yet solved the problem as to why a first rate biscuit coloured dog or bitch is such an invaluable breeding proposition, but the fact remains that it is, and if you are not a very adept breeder, you will find a dash of biscuit blood almost a necessity from time to time; while if you have lost the snow sheen on your whites and want to recapture it, try a dash of biscuit, that will do the trick. Although it is primarily careless and inexperienced breeding as a whole which has caused Samoyeds to lose so much of their one time magnificence and inherent beauty. The modern ignoring, indeed that modern ousting of the biscuit coloureds, has also had its very degenerating effect."

"I am against dead white coats in Samoyeds because I consider they are unnatural for this breed and I am also against them because they hardly ever possess the requisite texture. On the other hand you will hardly ever find a really badly coated Samoyed which is biscuit coloured and the same thing applies, though sometimes in a less degree, to the biscuit shaded or biscuit tinged Samoyeds. The pigmentation which supplies the colour in the biscuit, be it self shaded to tinged, gives either directly or indirectly, a coat stiffening effect or perhaps I would put it better by saying that it provides the coat with stamina. While of

course it is not pigmentation in the actual sense (there is no pigmentation in a white coat) which gives the snow sheen glisten to the whites which have it, that snow sheen has something in common with the pigmentation of the biscuits as it is nearly always accompanied by at least reasonably good coat. The dead white coat is totally deficient in the "material" which gives the snow sheen glisten and therefore it is totally deficient in the "material" which provides the natural coat of the Samoyeds."

Disposition of Colour:

Most Samoyeds have shading to some minor degree, predominantly confined to around the ears and sometimes the base of the tail. Many dogs develop more biscuit as they grow older but where colour appears on the face, it is important that it should not produce an unpleasant expression (not typical of the Samoyed), such as "spectacle" rings around the eyes. The common little spots of colour on the muzzle are referred to as "tea stains" or "freckles" and are quite acceptable if not obtrusive.

Showing a shaded dog:

From the exhibitors point of view the biscuit dog is often under a severe disadvantage at the outset. Indeed the impression is often gained that even breed judges have believed the shaded exhibit to be kennel stained and penalised in the ring for not being white. It is even the breed judges do not know what is biscuit or cream, then what chance have these exhibits under the all-rounders.

It is agreed that the gleaming white Samoyed does tend to outshine the cream or biscuit one, but the secret of good judging must surely be to put aside personal preferences and assess the coat for its quality and texture, *when both are equally acceptable under the Standard*, and count the colour only as incidental. In point of fact, many of the "white" Samoyeds have a faulty softer coat and/or have a blank, flat-white look about them, without the frosty effect which is a joy to see.



**LISKALITE
SAMOYED
KENNELS**

M.W. & A.J. Day
232 Plateau Road
Te Marua
UPPER HUTT
NEW ZEALAND
Phone: 266-414

We are proud to present our beautiful
top winning bitch

**AUSTRALIAN and NEW ZEALAND CHAMPION
PETROVEENA PEARLONNA
"LADY"**



Just arrived home from a short visit to Australia where she was undefeated, attaining her Australian title in only 9 days and 7 shows. Lady was shown at 9 shows accumulating 144 points plus.

- 1 BEST IN SHOW (ALL BREEDS)
- 2 RESERVE BEST IN SHOW (ALL BREEDS)
- 3 OPEN IN SHOW (ALL BREEDS)
- 3 BEST OF GROUP (ALL BREEDS)
- 3 OPEN OF GROUP (ALL BREEDS)
- BEST BITCH — SPECIALITY SHOW

Truly a record to be proud of and an achievement for our breed.

At home in New Zealand her recent achievements only to name of few,

1981 BITCH OF THE YEAR
Auckland Provincial Samoyed Club
Samoyed Club Incorporated

1982 BITCH OF THE YEAR
Dominion Samoyed Club
Samoyed Club Incorporated

REPRESENTATIVE BITCH OF THE YEAR

1981 and 1982

Samoyed Club Incorporated

Excelling in elegance, class and style, Lady is a bitch we are proud to have in our Kennels. To date her progeny, only months, are challenge winning, Multi Group and In Show winners.

Thank you Noel and Fran Wilson for breeding her.

Sire: Australian/New Zealand Champion: Novasaky Silva Zara Vitch (Imp. U.K.)

Dam: Champion Pandora of Rydal Mount.

Also the home of: Ch Kimaritsa of Pearlonna — Ritsa needs no introduction to the Samoyed World in New Zealand.

Ch Arodaliska of Pearlonna — Liska is renowned for his density of coat.

Selectively breed puppies sometimes available — Inquiries most welcome

We specialize in COAT, CLASS and CHARACTER

The Voice from the Other Side of the Fence

by Mel Fishback

Eye Colour -- Originally a Matter of Taste

Most novice dog owners enjoy the sport of convincing the public that they know a great deal about their dogs. The Arctic origin of the Samoyed leads people to dream up some remarkable tales to explain various characteristics of the breed -- or of its standard, anyway. One of the favourite stories repeated to the gullible listener is the one about eye colour -- or why the Sam should always have dark eyes.

Tundra wolves, like northern dogs, have a great range of natural eye colours. When there is any variation in body colour, as there is in the wolf, the colour of the eye tends to have some correlation with the coat colour, although it's not very logical. The lightest and darkest specimens are more inclined to have very pale eye colour, while the gray or grayish black animals ordinarily have true brown eyes. Although all the types of arctic dogs except perhaps the Eskimo dog of North America have blue eyes from time to time, wolves are not known to have eyes of a true blue colour. Many have such pale gold or green eyes that they convey the same glacial expression as does a blue-eyed dog.

The blue-eyed dog is an old tradition in both Samoyeds and Siberian Huskies, with no regard to body colour. Since these breeds are both Asian and came from neighboring areas, it is hard to say whether one breed transmitted the genes for blue eye colour to the other, or whether it was simply a trait of Asian Arctic dogs in general. Malamute breeders state positively that the appearance of blue eyes in an Alaskan Malamute indicates a long-ago cross with Siberian or some other breed, but two decades ago there were Malamute-type dogs in the interior of Alaska that had blue eyes -- as well as great numbers of these dogs with gold, yellow or green eyes. Contrary to most people's understanding of the transmis-

sion of eye colour, it is relatively common for two brown-eyed dogs to produce a blue eyed pup. And in turn a pair of blue-eyed dogs can be the parents of a dog with dark brown eyes, even though both pale-eyed dogs seem to be pure recessive in character. (It has happened in our kennel, with two parents that had clear blue-white eyes without a speck of brown pigment).

The amber, yellow or chestnut-coloured eye is not *more* common than the brown eye in Arctic dogs, but is certainly *as* common. There appears to be no relationship between light eyes and wolf blood; plenty of half-wolves and quarter-wolves have extremely dark eyes (while others don't). Between wolves and dogs there isn't any special inheritance of any particular eye characteristic. Light eyes or dark eyes do tend to be passed on in family lines so that in a closely bred line, there will be more of one or the other.

In any case, one can assume that the provision for dark eyes in Samoyeds went into the standard because the founders of the breed felt that they looked best -- not because of any particular advantages connected with dark eyes. Dogs and humans are much the same when it comes to tolerance of glare in snow country; some are more susceptible than others, regardless of their eye colour. Scandinavians commonly have blue eyes, while Eskimos and Indians are dark-eyed. This seems to reflect "tribal origins" more than it shows any adaptation to their present environment. *Both* can become snowblind if they don't take precautions on the tremendous brilliance of (particularly) the north spring.

Snowblindness in Arctic animals is very uncommon, probably an individual problem, unrelated to eye colour. A single dog will suffer from weeping eyes, will show evidence of pain on a bright day, when all the other dogs in the group are perfectly comfortable. There

is no cohesion with eye colour at all as any knowledgeable persons know. This sensitivity to light is so uncommon really, it would be hard to make a scientific study of snowblindness in dogs even if someone wanted to try.

Arctic dogs do suffer from one light-related problem again, as individuals, since apparently identical dogs show no trouble with a form of sunburn something like the affliction known as "collie nose". It is seen in lighter pigmented dogs and appears on the muzzle, around the eyes and sometimes on the upper surfaces of the feet. Because of this there is real justification for breeding dogs with dark skin, especially on the face. Even hundreds of Arctic dogs live healthily and comfortably with pink pigment throughout the face, or light skin only spotted blue or light pigment (like many Samoyeds, whose ears and noses may be the only black parts of the face). Reddish dogs with liver-coloured skin do equally well all of the time. So, again, there is no demand for dark pigment on the Samoyed based on personal taste. The dogs with light noses, lips and eyerims simply look prettier.

In any case, the Samoyed breeder should not have hysterics when a pup turns up with light eyes or light pigment. For show purposes it is too bad -- but it's perfectly normal and natural. It is not a sign of albinism, and chances are that this pup's pigmentation would have served him as well in his native land as it does in a southern environment, because the strain has been bred strongly for the dark trait for many generations most dogs from that strain are going to be dark. But there's no point in constantly accusing a breeder (or individual dog in the background) or malice when such a blue-eyed dog, or a pink-pigmented dog, shows up in a litter. There were (and are) plenty of them in the breed.

Choosing a Puppy

by Fran and Noel Wilson "Pearlonna"

To start at the very beginning, the prospective owner should study the breed in the show ring; observe the winning strains, and what weaknesses may be connected with each. It is note-worthy that grand-parents count for more in a pedigree than do the parents. Good boning is largely a matter of rearing, but to gain height, if that be desired, at least one of the grandsires should be tall. More often than not a small, but typically built samoyed female produces the biggest puppies, especially in males.

Although by no means essential, it is best to have already decided as to sex and price. A breeder essentially will suitably let a puppy go to its new owner when it is 6 to 8 weeks of age. At this fascinating age the puppy will settle down more quickly than when half grown. The average samoyed is easily house trained. In general, note if the eyes are bright, the air confident, the condition good, coat gleaming and movement sound. Most puppies should be plump, but should not be pot bellied, or overtight across the tummy. These symp-

oms may point to worms. With regard to these, be sure to ask if the puppies have been treated or not. These notes are for novices, not for the experienced who naturally have their own ideas and need not seek advice. The same applies to feeding. A rough guide is to worm at about 7 weeks and again at 10 or 12 weeks whether the puppy shows signs or not, a big majority have from a few to a mass of roundworms. Another important thing to note is if they have diarrhoea, this too may be the result of worms, or some infection.

Breed Features. Pay great attention to movement, the power of which is one of a Samoyeds most striking features. It should be easy, with not too short a stride. (No signs of cowhocks), straight stifle joints or weak pasterns). A Samoyed uses his feet in more ways than other breeds. Observe how a puppy will "hang on" with his toes if picked up, or if standing on the edge of a table or chair.

Tail: Set. Should sit well over the back, then curve down the side. It is natural for a

Samoyed to stand with his tail right over his back, times mainly when relaxed.

Coat: Is a serious consideration. This should stand away from the body, have both the outer coat and the dense wool-like undercoat. The colour of coat can be white, cream or biscuit shaded. The biscuit shading has an attraction all of its own, with hardly any exception these specimens have denser hair pigment and the coats tend to be of a high quality.

The foreface appears very short in a young puppy if it is to be correct later, but it should not be over heavy, too pointed, or the jaw weak, much less or overshot.

Eyes. Above all the expression should be sweet, intelligent and smiling, medium to brown in colour, set well apart with a telligent expression, eyerims should be dark and unbroken.

Head. To be wedge shaped with a broad flat skull and nose black for preference. The eyes may be brown or flesh coloured as well.

Christmas — with the S



The end of November. Out come the sledges and harness, on go the discussions. Which dogs are to be used and where? Sasha always goes to the Blind Institute in the sledge, Zah must be included in the Hospital team because one old lady expects him there every year.

To a playground with a difference. Kiddies running around playing ball - but the ball has a bell in it and there are railings round the playground. These are blind children. They "look" at a cardigan made from Samoyed combings, spun and knitted; they "look" at the dogs and the dogs stand still as if they sense the blindness.

Told Samoyeds carry the name of the tribe they belonged to, a small Maori boy stands up and proudly says he also comes from a tribe. That's right, and some of his ancestors brought dogs with them in their canoes. A discussion on how they could go to "you know where" is hastily channelled along other lines.

Evening. Same place but this time the elderly ladies' Christmas gathering. All over 70, all in their careful best, all singing carols. One of the Sams joins in, wins laughter and comment later from a visiting curate, "Well, he must be a Christian." A sled does the rounds of the hall bearing small gifts. Larna, who has been taught to "speak" says Merry Christmas so many times she is nearly hoarse. Simple pleasures - but intense for those who live in a world of darkness.

A phone call from a theatre-minded niece. Please could you get me a pig, a lamb and a dog to play in the panto? Well, the pig is impossible, but a bathed, powdered lead-trained lamb goes on stage for Little Bo Peep and a Toltec Kennels Chihuahua sits on Mother Hubbard's arm through all her trials



and tribulations. Nicky, featuring with nursery characters, learns early in rehearsals that sweets are thrown from the stage, that some are dropped and that even those wrapped in paper are edible. The only problem: parting the animals from the cast and audience after each performance.



Night. Thousands of candles, singing of carols, the old story of Christmas retold. Shepherds and Sams soberly play the roles of





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sleds and several



dogs tour 14 wards. Small puppies are placed on the beds of patients, one of whom has not seen or touched a dog in her 18 years there. Miss the old legless South Pole veteran who used to whoop with joy when he saw the dogs - he won't be there any more - but met the Scrooge-like oldster who shouted "Shoot them all, shoot them all" but succumbed to the charms of a nestling puppy. What happens when he finds the puppy has puddled his pillow?

Nicky puts his front feet on the bed of a dying woman gently licks her hand - she loved

the dogs last year. One of the girls who helps with the dogs in the corridor crying; these sights and sounds are too much for some young hearts to take.

Christmas morning. Over the bridge, up a sweeping drive to beds arranged under green trees, to small people moving slowly in irons or lying in stretchers, excitedly listening for the bells. Father Christmas arrives with three sleds of presents, more than 100 bells jingling on the harness. "Eskimos" help to distribute presents and organise sled rides and little passengers smile happily and ring bells gaily

with hands, feet or even teeth.

Old Nicky sits in the arms of a quiet Indian girl from Fiji and, surprisingly tactfully, his head cocked to one side, appears to understand Hindustani. Watching nurses are thrilled, for Nicky has broken through a worrying barrier of silence - a barrier that removed forever after that happy conversation.

Perhaps our own Christmas dinner is less and cold, perhaps the day is tiring - but the distribution of pleasure through the dogs is worth every moment.

The Samoyed

as described by Mitford Brice in his book "The Dog"

The remarkable degree to which almost every breed of dog displays attractive characteristics peculiarly its own, has forced me, in the course of my book, to lavish praise on many breeds, and there is little doubt that this adherence to type is largely responsible for the charm of dog keeping and dog breeding. But the Samoyed is perhaps the handsomest and possibly the oldest (it is claimed that the type has remained unchanged through thousands of years) of the Spitz group and merits eulogies for which no ordinary words seem adequate.

He is in every sense a dog apart, his coat, his age, his usefulness and his habits conforming to those of no other breed. It is to the reindeer that the Samoyed people look for their livelihood and for the odd jobs of hauling blubber and skins; but the Samoyed is allotted only such tasks as herding as a shepherd would set his collie. So greatly prized and so warmly cherished is this dog with the ice glisten,

sparkling at the tips of his snowy coat, that he sleeps as one of the family in some sheltered corner of the Samoyed "choom" or tent, and it is from this habit that he derives his charming nature towards all, especially his love and gentleness towards children.

But although this mode of living has given him this remarkable domestic twist of character, his lightness and speed as a sledge dog were soon discovered and appreciated by the great Nansen, the Duke of Abruzzi, Scott, and by the Jackson-Harmsworth Expedition (of which my father was Organising Secretary). It was no doubt the experience of these explorers that the Samoyed was more easily trained and in every sense a more satisfactory dog than the less intelligent varieties of sledge dog that had been crossed with the wolf.

Of the several unique features of the breed, none is more striking than his weather-resisting off-standing coat whose dense undercoat not only forms a shield against the

cold, but being white, resists the rays of sun and protects him in summer as well. The glistening spiky coat is remarkably free from any doggy odour and throws off dirt rapidly. Its combings can be spun into soft yarn similar in appearance but stronger than Angora rabbit wool; and in this connection it may be added that the Samoyed shares with the Chow, (to him) doubtful distinction that in former days his splendid coat was used for furs and his flesh for meat. With the advantage of the fine all weather coat, it is not surprising that the Samoyed should be healthy and active the year round.

Partly from watching other dogs and partly to the urging of his own instincts, the Samoyed is an admirable herd dog, moving about his work with resolution and grace, and for rattle he possesses unusual qualifications, turning a space extraordinarily small for his size. In fact, it is not improbable that his acute sense

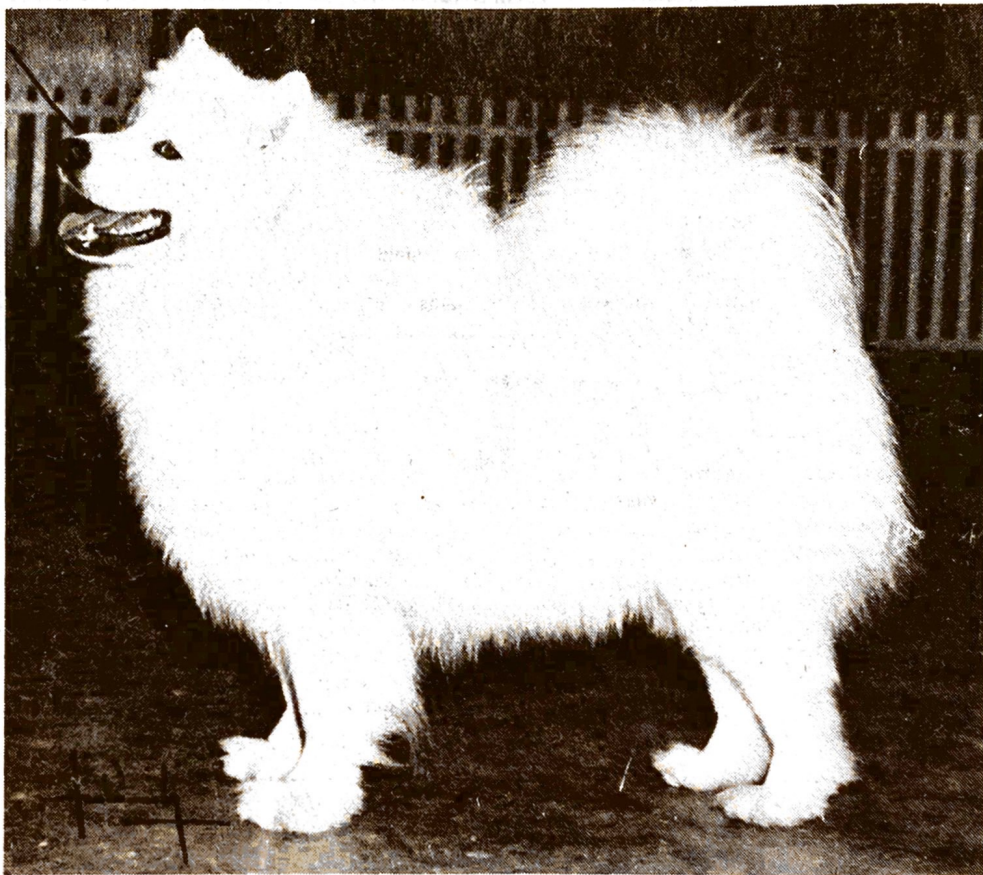
PEARLONNA SAMOYEDS

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"SOLO"



*winner of 1982 Tux National Dog Show
B.O.B. also BEST OF GROUP NON-
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winner of 1980 National Dog Show B.O.B.

A large handsome dog Solo carries himself with dignity and pride. He is a working dog heavy in bone with a powerful body and fantastic true to type coat, together with an excellent temperament.

Our stock to date has won over 450 C.C. awards and produced a record winning number of Champions in this country.

Our kennel breeds in the belief that quality is the cornerstone of breed improvements, thoughtfully bred and well reared puppies sometimes available.

"THE HOME OF CHAMPIONS"

of balance is in some measure attributable to his strong, well padded feet and powerful nails which enable him to cover great distances over the hard ground without injury. As is to be expected, the Samoyed is a hardy healthy animal whose offensive and defensive weapons, strong jaws and thick coat enable him (although rarely the aggressor) to acquit himself creditably in any encounter. So it is all the more surprising to find that his mouth is so tender that he can and will carry birds and eggs without the slightest damage to either. In his more personal characteristics the Samoyed resembles the Finnish Spitz, for he is a family rather than a one man dog. We will move away aloofly without anger from the undesired attention of a stranger.

There remains to be recorded the Samoyed's most distinguished feature, his age. It is a fact that this dog usually lives to the hearty age of fifteen or sixteen years and he is considered at his best at the age of ten years. No wonder his hair has turned white! But to anyone desiring a dog that combines primitiveness with gentleness, that is hardy out of doors and scrupulously clean in the house, that has beauty of coat and sweetness of nature, this handsome dog of the Samoyed people is emphatically to be recommended.

"In ancient times, companionship between man and dog was a rare thing, even frowned

upon by certain religious orders.

Today's feature is a breed whose personal history is full of colour and adventure and whose ancestors had the good fortune to live under the same roof, share the same food and fight the same battles as did ours, long before many of the popular dogs of today were in existence.

Once upon a time, in the Land of the Big Snows, there lived a people known as the Samoyeds, and though this was a very long time ago - even then there was fighting for more power and possessions. Their strength being not as great as some, and preferring peace to war, this tribe gathered their families and valuables and fled farther north until they found safety in the icy plains near the White Sea.

Strange as it may seem, the most prized property of any household was the dogs. To travel any distance over frozen ground, to hunt, or to herd reindeer, these people were dependent upon their dogs for aid. Without them they could hardly exist. Into the house went the dogs with their owner, and it is this constant companionship that is credited as being responsible for developing the almost "human understanding" of the Samoyed dog.

Inheriting the name of the people who discovered the possibilities of this breed, the Samoyed in its native land still acts as guard,

hunter, sled and herd dog, and he still bears the same handsome physical appearance of his forebears. It has hardly been a hundred years since they were first brought out in England and pictures and old photo's show a dog of great beauty, much the same size, and with the same sweet expression. There is nothing fierce or the killer type about them as is associated with the early sled dogs.

There are many names given them for their physical appearance and often seen in print in connection with the breed. For example, in one district they have been referred to as the "Dogs of the Czar", "Smiling Sam of the Arctic" is another, and one that is very appropriate is "The big white dog which carries in its face the Spirit of Christmas the whole year through."

Samoyed puppies look exactly like little white bear cubs. It is with children that they seem happiest. Their sweet and mild dispositions make them dependable companions for the littlest in the family.

Usually when mention is made of a long-haired dog, immediately comes the thought - "It would never do to have one in this climate" - which happens to be all wrong, for here is one breed that seems to do equally well in the hottest of summers, shedding its winter garment and being strangely free from any doggy odour."

"Beauty Points"

by Judy McCormick — "Silvertips"

It has been noticed over the years Samoyeds have not won in the ring because of poor pigment on the nose (judges having given this reason). The standard states "nose black for preference but may be brown or flesh coloured." While one does prefer the black nose for contrast with the coat it may not be realised that weather does play a very important part with some of our dogs and while having a black nose through the summer months the same dog may have a very brown nose during the Winter.

changed?

The Samoyed is, however, capable of sledge work (as many breeds are), proven by explorers such as 'Nansen', Jackson and Borchgrevink, to name just a few. In America, Samoyeds are raced in some of the most gruelling trials, proving themselves every time. They also participate in weight pulling contests and freight races which are races of

strength and endurance as against the sledge races for speed. A good Samoyed more than holds his own with other Arctic breeds. The Samoyed Standard describes a dog that is agile, graceful and fast, yet capable of great endurance and strength. An "all rounder" in other words and at no time should sound structure and gait, temperament and typical head and coat be sacrificed for beauty points.

Routine Grooming

taken from "The Samoyed"

The Samoyed Association of Great Britain

It is not as difficult to keep a Samoyed looking fresh and trim as is sometimes feared by new or intending owners. Of course the fresh-fallen snow look required for showing comes only from the tub. A regular routine each week will however ensure that the dog is always reasonably clean and presentable, the coat lively and shining. It is an excellent thing to get your dog accustomed to this. About ten minutes each day as well as a thorough weekly grooming will be time well spent.

The most convenient way is to get the dog to lie on his side on the grooming table. Comb gently but firmly from the belly to the back, including the tail and trousers; then brush, not forgetting to brush the hair of the legs up and the featherings out. Turn on the other side and repeat the process. Use a strong steel comb capable of reaching the dense undercoat and afterwards brush vigorously with a good bristle brush. If there are mats in the coat these should be gently teased out with the comb and this can be done without tugging or hurting. The brushing should be two way, that is from head to tail and then from tail to head... Be sure always to brush up the hair of

the legs, to brush out the featherings and fluff out the tail and trousers. Finally sit the dog on the table, comb and brush his front with a quick final brush over back. Do not forget to brush the feet, to encourage the feathering between the toes. When the coat is dropping, groom daily; knots and mats of dead hair which give the dog a soiled and shaggy look, will not then accumulate, the springing new coat will also be helped to grow evenly and further there will be less hairs to be distributed about the house. When the dog gets muddy and wet after winter, or summer walks for that matter, it is a good plan to wipe over, leave to dry and then brush well. On no account in house or kennel, allow the dog to remain wet. Dry cold will not hurt a healthy, well-nourished dog, but damp is most injurious.

An unkempt, bedraggled Samoyed is the saddest of sights and a reproach to his owner for it is simple to keep him spruce. He is naturally a dog who values his good appearance and does much with his tongue to keep himself clean. In particular he cannot abide dirty paws so he will obviously value your help in this.