

SELECTING AND PURCHASING A SAMOYED



SAMOYED CLUB OF AMERICA, INC.

SELECTING AND PURCHASING A SAMOYED

An official publication of the [Samoyed Club of America, Inc.](#), this is one of several booklets developed to assist you in selecting, owning and caring for a Samoyed.

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SELECTING AND PURCHASING A SAMOYED

- How to select and where to purchase a Samoyed, whether for companionship, conformation or obedience showing, or breeding.
- How to decide between a puppy and an adult.

LIVING WITH YOUR SAMOYED

- The general care of your Samoyed: diet, exercise, training and grooming. Things to do with your Samoyed: showing, obedience, sledding and backpacking.
- Finding a lost dog.

BREEDING YOUR SAMOYED

- Determining whether or not to breed.
- The suitability and care of stud dogs and brood bitches.
- The whelping, expense, raising and placing of puppies.



**PUBLISHED BY
THE SAMOYED CLUB OF AMERICA, INC.**



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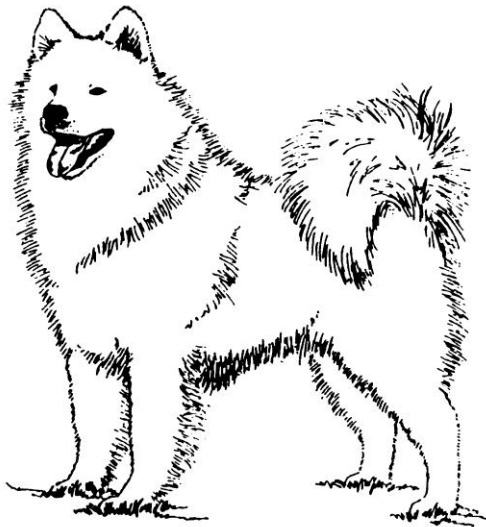
MEET THE SAMOYED

The Samoyed dog, one of the oldest known breeds, originated in northwestern Siberia. Raised by the Samoyede people, the breed developed isolated from outside influences. The correct pronunciation of the name of the tribe from which the breed received its name is SAM-A-YED', with the accent on the last syllable. The dogs are also affectionately known as Sammies. Their magnificent white, cream and/or biscuit coat has two layers, a dense, woolly undercoat and a silver-tipped harsh outer coat of long, straight guard hairs.

A fine example of an ancient working dog, hardy, vibrant and even-tempered, the Samoyed was originally used to haul sledges, hunt, and drive for the nomadic people they served in Siberia, yet tenderly guard children as well! Brought out to pull sleds on Arctic and Antarctic expeditions these valiant dogs endured terrible hardships serving man in his quest for the poles. Most of today's Samoyeds are descended from those veteran expedition sledge dogs. There are no toy or miniature varieties of the Samoyed breed, as diminutive types could not perform these responsibilities. Only *one* breed is the powerful, gentle, magnificent Samoyed – a true working dog.

The Samoyed tribesmen were peaceful nomads, who manifested extraordinary love for their beautiful dogs, treating them as members of the family. Thus their dogs developed a love and understanding of human kind and an unfailing sense of trust and loyalty which is retained in the breed to this day. They remain the delightful playmates and faithful protectors of children. The Samoyed's eye-arresting beauty and gentle, companionable nature, coupled with unusual intelligence, demand love and loyalty of his owner, which he will return a hundred-fold.

Despite his arctic heritage, the Samoyed has adapted well to the warmer climates, and



even tolerates the heat of Florida, Texas, and southern California. The Samoyed needs to be part of someone's life. He can sleep outside, although he certainly *prefers* to sleep inside, and needs to spend a significant part of each day being a beloved part of the family. With a twinkle in their dark intelligent eyes and their ever present "Samoyed Smile", they are truly dogs with Christmas in their hearts the whole year long.

The following information is intended to help you determine whether a Samoyed is suited to you and your lifestyle, and to help you select one wisely.

IS A SAMOYED RIGHT FOR YOU?

A well-bred, well-groomed Samoyed is a beautiful sight. A well-trained Samoyed is a joy to own. Your Samoyed will guarantee attention and boost your ego, but, as with any pet, there will be inconveniences involved.

Obviously, they have a lot of hair. If the coat is kept clean and well-brushed, your pet will remain beautiful. If not, the coat will smell, mat and become uncomfortable to the dog and repulsive to you. Shedding generally occurs each spring, but may occur at other times. Females sometimes shed twice a year. Neutering or spaying tends to diminish shedding; however, this creates a heavier coat which requires more brushing.

Samoyeds are energetic, inquisitive, quick-witted, mischievous, and some tend to defy authority. They remain ever playful, from infancy through old age, and always have a twinkle in their eye.

Samoyeds are "pack" animals - loyal, and willing to serve their owners (leaders). Adolescents will sometimes test their masters to determine their role in the family's "pack." Both sexes range in temperament from docile to dominant and testing their relationship to the "pack" and its leaders can range from refusal to come when called to trying to unnerve a timid owner in a test of leadership. Matching a puppy's *character* to its new family is just as important as its looks or pedigree, and a breeder's help is valuable here. It is very important to know the temperament of the parents. The temperament bred into the puppy and developed in the breeder's home, combined with the way you raise and train the puppy will determine that *character*, and how easily the pup will fit into your family's "pack" and lifestyle.

Samoyeds are active dogs. They need exercise: long, regular walks or runs and lots of playtime with active inventive games to develop the mind and strengthen muscles.

Samoyeds become bored easily. If you don't provide activities and play time, you may not like the results of the games your Sammy will make up on his own!

Samoyeds are not spectators. They're participators! They don't sit quietly in a corner until you're ready for them. They follow you from room to room, indoors and out, and enjoy being in the center of *everything* you do. While this may not appeal to you, we Sam fanciers find this to be their greatest asset.

A SAMOYED BIBLIOGRAPHY

To further help you understand the Samoyed, should you decide on a Sammy, it is recommended that you obtain a book about them, to learn about their care, training, and other aspects of ownership. Most can be purchased or ordered from pet stores or vendors at dog shows.

1. *HOW TO RAISE AND TRAIN A SAMOYED*. Vera Kroman. (T.H.F. Publications, P.O. Box 27, Neptune, New Jersey 07753) A basic reference book in paperback.
2. *THE NEW COMPLETE SAMOYED*. Bob and Dolly Ward. (Howell Publishing, 230 Park Avenue, New York, NY. 10017) Authored by Samoyed breeders/AKC judges. Over 300 pages and 250 photos. Excellent over-all review of the breed.
3. *THE SAMOYED BOOK*. Composed by Samoyed fanciers. ([Hoflin Publishing](#), 4401 Zephyr Street, Wheat Ridge, Colorado 80033-3299) An encyclopedic reference of the breed, it also describes many major kennels. Over 300 pages and 450 photos. Excellent reference book.
4. *SAMOYEDS*. Joyce Reynaud. (T.H.F. Publications, address above.) A general reference by a Samoyed breeder.
5. *THIS IS THE SAMOYED*. Joan McDonald Brearley. (T.H.F. Publications, address above.) A general reference book.
6. *YOUR SAMOYED*. Jan Kauzlarich. (Denlinger Publishers, Fairfax, Virginia.) Written by a Samoyed breeder. Over 100 pages and photos. Designed for novice puppy owners.

Crate-training will help you in house-training your Samoyed. Your dog's crate will become his "room" in your home, a place where he can safely take a nap without being disturbed. It prevents chewing and damage to your home, and provides protection for your puppy when traveling. A truly helpful brochure, "A PET OWNER'S GUIDE TO THE DOG CRATE," which explains the technique and benefits of crate-training can be obtained by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to Nicki Meyer Education Effort, Inc. 31 Davis Hill Road, Weston, Ct. 06883.

Getting these references well in advance helps to make the homecoming a success.

THE SAMOYED STANDARD

Because each breed has identifying characteristics, you can distinguish between breeds of dogs in appearance, in purpose and in personality. Each of the hundred-plus breeds recognized by the [American Kennel Club, Inc. \(AKC\)](#), including Samoyeds, has a full description of the traits each dog must retain to be representative of that breed. This written description is called a "Breed Standard."

Judges at dog shows measure each entry against its breed's standard. How closely any individual dog can match its standard should determine that dog's placing at the show, and its likelihood of reproducing quality. The ability of the dog to reproduce quality assures that future generations of its breed will retain those unique characteristics

that set it apart from all other breeds.

AKC registered does not necessarily mean "quality," but only means that both parents were registered with the AKC and that the puppy either is also registered, or eligible to be registered. Even AKC Champions do not always produce "champion quality" puppies, but, as a rule, it does take top quality parents to produce top quality puppies.

There is no perfect dog. The standard is a word picture of the ideal Samoyed. Certain basics *must* be met for a dog to be considered a "typical" specimen of the breed. Other aspects are "preferred." For example, the Standard says that noses should be "black for preference," meaning that a black nose is more desirable although brown noses are not "wrong." The more closely a dog can match nearly *all* the individual specifications, the greater its quality.

Use the AKC standard as a guide in selecting your own Samoyed. If you are looking for a wonderful companion, the "basics," especially those concerning temperament, will be suitable. If you are seeking a Samoyed which you hope to show or breed, you must try to ascertain that the puppy, *as well as its parents*, exhibits many of the finer aspects. The parents of a working dog must also exhibit good structure and temperament, and a willingness to please. If you're really determined to show or breed, it might be wise to consider purchasing an adult or adolescent which already displays most of its mature characteristics.

To help fanciers better understand the Standard, the Samoyed Club of America has approved and published a pictorial guide. Called the *SAMOYED ILLUSTRATED STANDARD*, it is a visual guide to correct type and quality. It is available directly from the SCA by contacting the current Corresponding Secretary listed at the back of this booklet.

The SCA has also worked in co-operation with the AKC to produce a video presentation on the Samoyed breed called "THE SAMOYED." It is available from the AKC, 51 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10010.

The official Samoyed Standard which follows is approved by the Samoyed Club of America, Inc. It was submitted to and approved by the AKC in August of 1993.

OFFICIAL AKC STANDARD FOR THE SAMOYED

General Conformation

(a) General Appearance

The Samoyed, being essentially a working dog, should present a picture of beauty, alertness and strength, with agility, dignity and grace. As his work lies in cold climates, his coat should be heavy and weather resistant, well groomed, and of good quality rather than quantity. The male carries more of a "ruff" than the female. He should not be long

in the back as a weak back would make him practically useless for his legitimate work, but at the same time, a close-coupled body would also place him at a great disadvantage as a draft dog. Breeders should aim for the happy medium, a body not long but muscular, allowing liberty, with a deep chest and well-sprung ribs, strong neck, straight front and especially strong loins. Males should be masculine in appearance and deportment without unwarranted aggressiveness; bitches feminine without weakness of structure or apparent softness of temperament. Bitches may be slightly longer in back than males. They should both give the appearance of being capable of great endurance but be free from coarseness. Because 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 bent and any suggestion of unsound stifles or cowhocks severely penalized. General appearance should include movement and general conformation, indicating balance and good substance.

(b) Substance

Substance is that sufficiency of bone and muscle which rounds out a balance with the frame. The bone is heavier than would be expected in a dog of this size but not so massive as to prevent the speed and agility most desirable in a Samoyed. In all builds, bone should be in proportion to body size. The Samoyed should never be so heavy as to appear clumsy nor so light as to appear racy. The weight should be in proportion to the height.

(c) Height

Males - 21 to 23-1/2 inches; females - 19 to 21 inches at the withers. An oversized or undersized Samoyed is to be penalized according to the extent of the deviation.

(d) Coat (Texture and Condition)

The Samoyed is a double-coated dog. The body should be well covered with an undercoat of soft, short, thick, close wool with longer and harsh hair growing through it to form the outer coat, which stands straight out from the body and should be free from curl. The coat should form a ruff around the neck and shoulders, framing the head (more on males than on females). Quality of coat should be weather resistant and considered more than quantity. A droopy coat is undesirable. The coat should glisten with a silver sheen. The female does not usually carry as long a coat as most males and it is softer in texture.

(e) Color

Samoyeds should be pure white, white and biscuit, cream, or all biscuit. Any other colors disqualify.

Movement

(a) Gait

The Samoyed should trot, not pace. He should move with a quick agile stride that is well timed. The gait should be free, balanced and vigorous, with good reach in the forequarters and good driving power in the hindquarters. When trotting, there should be

a strong rear action drive. Moving at a slow walk or trot, they will not single track, but as speed increases the legs gradually angle inward until the pads are finally falling on a line directly under the longitudinal center of the body. As the pad marks converge the forelegs and hind legs are carried straight forward in traveling, the stifles not turned in nor out. The back should remain strong, firm and level. A choppy or stilted gait should be penalized.

(b) Rear End

Upper thighs should be well developed. Stifles well bent -- approximately 45 degrees to the ground. Hocks should be well developed, sharply defined and set at approximately 30 per cent of hip height. The hind legs should be parallel when viewed from the rear in a natural stance, strong, well developed, turning neither in nor out. Straight stifles are objectionable. Double jointedness or cowhocks are a fault. Cowhocks should only be determined if the dog has had an opportunity to move properly.

(c) Front End

Legs should be parallel and straight to the pasterns. The pasterns should be strong, sturdy and straight, but flexible with some spring for proper let-down of feet. Because of depth of chest, legs should be moderately long. Length of leg from the ground to the elbow should be approximately 55 percent of the total height at the withers - a very short-legged dog is to be deprecated. Shoulders should be long and sloping, with a layback of 45 degrees and be firmly set. Out at the shoulders or out at the elbows should be penalized. The withers separation should be approximately 1 - 1-1/2 inches.

(d) Feet

Large, long, flattish -- a hare-foot, slightly spread but not splayed; toes arched; pads thick and tough, with protective growth of hair between the toes. Feet should turn neither in nor out in a natural stance, but may turn in slightly in the act of pulling. Turning out, pigeon-toed, round or cat-footed or splayed are faults. Feathers on feet are not too essential but are more profuse on females than on males.

Head

(a) Conformation

Skull is wedge-shaped, broad, slightly crowned, not round or apple-headed, and should form an equilateral triangle on lines between the inner base of the ears and the center point of the stop.

Muzzle -- Muzzle of medium length and medium width, neither coarse nor snipy; should taper toward the nose and be in proportion to the size of the dog and the width of skull. The muzzle must have depth. Whiskers are not to be removed.

Stop -- Not too abrupt, nevertheless well defined.

Lips -- Should be black for preference and slightly curved up at the comers of the mouth, giving the "Samoyed smile." Lip lines should not have the appearance of being coarse nor should the flews drop predominately at comers of the mouth.

Ears -- Strong and thick, erect, triangular and slightly rounded at the tips; should not be large or pointed, nor should they be small and "bear-eared." Ears should conform to head size and the size of the dog; they should be set well apart but be within the border of the outer edge of the head; they should be mobile and well covered inside with hair; hair full and stand-off before the ears, Length of ear should be the same measurement as the distance from inner base of ear to outer corner of eye.

Eyes -- Should be dark for preference; should be placed well apart and deep-set; almond shaped with lower lid slanting toward an imaginary point approximating the base of ears. Dark eye rims for preference. Round or protruding eyes penalized. Blue eyes disqualifying.

Nose -- Black for preference but brown, liver or Dudley nose not penalized. Color of nose sometimes changes with age and weather.

Jaws and Teeth -- Strong, well set teeth, snugly overlapping with scissors bite. Undershot or overshot should be penalized.

(b) Expression

The expression, referred to as "Samoyed expression," is very important and is indicated by sparkle of the eyes, animation and lighting up of the face when alert or intent on anything. Expression is made up of a combination of eyes, ears and mouth. The ears should be erect when alert; the mouth should be slightly curved up at the corners to form the "Samoyed smile."

Torso

(a) Neck

Strong, well muscled, carried proudly erect, set on sloping shoulders to carry head with dignity when at attention. Neck should blend into shoulders with a graceful arch.

(b) Chest

Should be deep, with ribs well sprung out from the spine and flattened at the sides to allow proper movement of the shoulders and freedom for the front legs. Should not be barrel-chested. Perfect depth of chest approximates the point of elbows, and the deepest part of the chest should be back of the forelegs -- near the ninth rib. Heart and lung room are secured more by body depth than width.

(c) Loin and Back

The withers forms the highest part of the back. Loins strong and slightly arched. The back should be straight to the loin, medium in length, very muscular and neither long nor short-coupled. The dog should be "just off square" -- the length being approximately 5 per cent more than the height. Females allowed to be slightly longer than males. The belly should be well shaped and tightly muscled and, with the rear of the thorax, should swing up in a pleasing curve (tuck-up). Croup must be full, slightly sloping, and must continue imperceptibly to the tail root.

Tail

The tail should be moderately long with the tail bone terminating approximately at the hock when down. It should be profusely covered with long hair and carried forward over the back or side when alert, but sometimes dropped when at rest. It should not be high or low set and should be mobile and loose -- not tight over the back. A double hook is a fault. A judge should see the tail over the back once when judging.

Disposition

Intelligent, gentle, loyal, adaptable, alert, full of action, eager to serve, friendly but conservative, not distrustful or shy, not overly aggressive. Unprovoked aggressiveness to be severely penalized.

DISQUALIFICATIONS

Any color other than pure white, cream, biscuit, or white and biscuit. Blue eyes.

TERMS USED IN ADVERTISING

"Purebred"

Intended to indicate that both parents are pure Samoyeds and that the puppies are therefore pure Samoyeds as well. If the seller cannot produce the AKC blue slip for the puppy's registration, you have only the seller's word, not proof.

"Papers"

Intended usually to mean that the AKC blue slip for registration comes with the puppy, to certify that this is a purebred. Sometimes, however, it only means that the seller can provide a pedigree (family tree) of one or both parents, but not a registration slip for the puppy itself.

"AKC" or "AKC registered"

Actually, the puppy itself is probably not yet registered with AKC, but you should look for this phrase. It does mean that both parents are AKC registered and that the *litter* is registered and the seller has an AKC blue slip for registration of each puppy. Unless you reserve and are prepared to pay more for an exceptionally nice puppy for showing and breeding, a truly responsible breeder may require you to sign a spay or neuter contract, or even require the operation to be completed, before surrendering the AKC blue slip to you. In these situations, you must be given the following information:

- Name and AKC registration number of the sire;
- Name and AKC registration number of the dam;
- Date of birth of the litter;
- AKC litter registration number;
- Litter owner's (breeder's) name and address (if more than one, obtain all names).

"Champion sired"

Although not all Champions are superior producers, this indicates that the female's owner has sought a quality stud to sire the litter. Remember that the puppies are the product of both a sire and dam. The sire of the litter can't produce quality by himself. You should also be looking for quality in the dam.

"Champion bloodlines"

This phrase could be used to describe a pedigree with considerable depth of quality and a multitude of champions.

On the other hand, the Champions in the bloodlines may be only one or two in many generations and perhaps are several generations back. They may have little bearing on the puppies offered for sale. Not all Champions produce Champions. The parents of the puppy for sale could actually be non-breeding quality dogs.

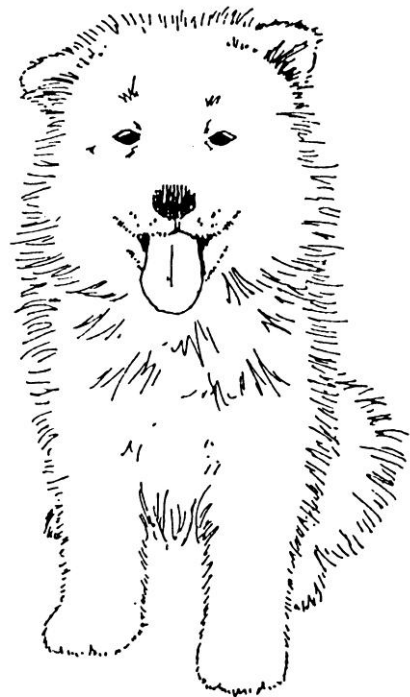
The parents of the puppy should be evaluated on the basis of the entire pedigree and on their own merits.

"Show quality"

This term identifies top quality stock for show or for breeding. These puppies exhibit the *potential* to become AKC Champions. They should be close to representing the ideal described by the standard. They should be *well above average* both physically and mentally. Working and obedience dogs require above average abilities as well.

"Pet quality"

These puppies should still exhibit the significant breed characteristics of structure and temperament that make a dog a Samoyed. They fall short of the ideal in ways which can usually be detected only by an expert, such as a dog show judge or experienced breeder. They do not make the best breeding prospects, but they can still make wonderful family companions.



PURCHASING A SAMOYED

The more time you take to learn about Samoyeds, the better chance you have of finding a healthy, happy and well-adjusted companion.

There are few consumer protection laws applying specifically to dogs and regulating their sale, their breeding, their quality, or how they are raised. Purchasing a dog or puppy is essentially "buyer beware." Knowing where your puppy comes from, how it was raised, and seeing the mother and other family members, gives you a good indication of the type of personality, character, and physical attributes your puppy will develop.

There are three different sources from which to select a puppy.

Hobby or Private Breeder:

How do you locate a breeder? While the Samoyed Club of America does not specifically recommend any individual, it can provide you with a list of SCA member breeders in your state through its Breeder Referral Service. These lists are available by contacting the current SCA Corresponding Secretary listed at the back of this booklet, or by contacting the SCA through a current address provided by the American Kennel Club. Contacting these breeders is best done on a private, personal basis (by phone or mail).

You can also attend AKC dog shows as a spectator. If you prefer to observe at dog shows to assess a breeder's sincerity, or quality of dogs, there are two magazines which list up-coming shows. You can scan the list for shows in your area, then contact the listed show official to obtain the exact location and time for judging of the Samoyeds.

[AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB GAZETTE](#). Available by subscription from The American Kennel Club, P.O. Box 1956, Marion, OH 43306 or call toll free (800) 533-7323. The *AKC Gazette* is also available in many local libraries and your local newsstand.

[DOG WORLD](#). Available by subscription, but also available in many pet stores, newsstands, and local libraries.

Sometimes the local newspaper will announce the local dog shows either by a feature story, or as an advertisement in the "pets" section of the want-ads.

Breeders who exhibit at AKC dog shows are actively seeking an impartial opinion about the quality of their dogs and whether they are indeed suitable to carry on the breed.

Showing is an expensive hobby. Breeders who exhibit, and whose dogs earn Championships, try to breed superior quality dogs so that the pups they keep themselves

will be of the finest quality and will win easily when shown. Not every puppy in these specially bred litters will be "show quality" yet each one has been bred and *raised* to be the potential Champion the breeding was intended to produce. The breeder will "grade" (rank) the litter, and some will be sold to carefully selected persons as future show dogs. The other littermates will be available to carefully selected homes seeking a quality pet, usually to be neutered.

Contrary to popular myth, "show stock" does *not* mean "high-strung." A show dog can be disqualified for bad temperament. Therefore dogs of a stable disposition are shown and consequently bred. This is general practice among Samoyed breeders/exhibitors who derive no pleasure from living with an ill-tempered dog no matter how "beautiful."

There is a wide range in the level of responsibility exhibited by breeders. Choose your breeder carefully, by investigating and asking questions.

- ✓ Does the breeder care about the dogs' environment?
- ✓ Are the dogs clean and well-groomed?
- ✓ Do the dogs seem to be happy with the breeder?
- ✓ Are they eager to be petted and responsive?
- ✓ Do they appear healthy, or does the breeder make excuses for their poor condition?
- ✓ Is the breeder concerned about your motives for wanting a puppy? (Beware of the breeder who is ready to sell you a puppy over the phone with no questions asked. A responsible breeder will probably have as many questions to ask you as you will have to ask the breeder.)
- ✓ Does the breeder ask how you will care for the puppy, where the pup will sleep, and how it will be controlled while you are away?
- ✓ Does the breeder provide written terms of sale?
- ✓ Is the breeder a member of the Samoyed Club of America (SCA)?

SCA members are guided by a [Code of Ethics](#).

They receive the SCA *BULLETIN* which carries articles on health, care, puppy raising, and genetics. This information is available to you through the SCA breeder from whom you purchase your Samoyed.

A responsible breeder will provide many items to assist you. This should include the following:

- AKC blue slip (registration application), properly signed by the seller. This will often be withheld on a pet puppy until the puppy is neutered. If withheld, you should sign a contract stating why you are not receiving the individual registration application, and receive instead, the registered name and AKC number of the sire and dam, the date of birth and registration number of the litter and the name and

address of the breeder(s). Four or more generation pedigree (family tree) of the puppy.

- Puppy's medical history to date including vaccinations and wormings.
- Veterinary documentation that the puppy's parents are clear of certain hereditary defects such as hip dysplasia and progressive retinal atrophy.
- Purchase agreement and contract, often defining a general health guarantee (with a specified time period in which to have the puppy checked by your own veterinarian), and often including specific guarantees regarding hips and eyes.
- A recommendation for a local veterinarian if the puppy is being purchased locally.
- Diet and exercise instructions, often accompanied by small supplies of the puppy's food and water.
- Housetraining instructions and information on developing a well-behaved dog, including a lesson in leash training.
- A grooming demonstration including nail clipping.
- Lists of supplies, periodicals and books, economical mail order catalogues, etc., occasionally even equipment, such as a collar, leash or Samoyed book.

Because they breed for quality, responsible breeders often have a waiting list for their puppies. They don't attempt to supply puppies "on demand." They breed only when they feel they have the time and finances to devote full care and attention to the litter, and when both parents are in their prime breeding years and in excellent health. To obtain a healthy, quality Samoyed from a breeder who impresses you, ask to be put on the waiting list. Be willing to wait for a good dog.

"Backyard Breeder":

Some people think they can make money by selling puppies. Their ads in the local papers often indicate that several breeds are available and they often are "on sale" for one reason or another. Puppies at "reduced prices" may ultimately cost you many times their original price in veterinary bills. Frequently you will see a number of females and one stud dog who is used with all of them because of convenience.

The goal is quick turnover, with little thought or time given to creating a quality beginning in life for the puppy that you want to share your home. Papers may or may not be provided; however, without the AKC registration application, there is no proof that the puppy is a purebred Samoyed.

A similar situation is the litter born because someone wanted to "educate the kids about nature," or recoup the cost of purchasing and keeping the mother dog. It is unlikely that these people will be able to provide help regarding the breed's history, standard, grooming needs or proper care. The combination of sire and dam was probably based

on local convenience.



An exception to this would be the owners of a quality female, carefully purchased from or perhaps even co-owned with an established breeder, who have thoughtfully bred her to a quality stud, also owned by an established breeder. The owners are benefiting from the knowledge and expertise of either or both of these experienced people and are probably on the way to developing a hobby kennel of their own. These puppies will likely be raised by the same guidelines used by the hobby or private breeder described above, and will be accompanied by the AKC papers, contracts, written care instructions, etc. Like the hobby breeder's pups, pets will probably be sold on a spay/neuter agreement to protect the breed.

Pet Shop:

Often thought of first because they always seem to have puppies available - whatever you want, when you want it. Stop and think just what you *are* getting. Litters supplied to pet shops are often randomly bred and reared cheaply to protect the profit margin. The puppies are regarded primarily as merchandise. Dogs are living companions whose fullest potential and use to humans will not develop properly if their lives begin as mere merchandise.

Frequently purebreds of inferior quality sold commercially cost more than quality puppies from a breeder. Price is not necessarily a measure of quality.

Beware of puppies raised only in small cages or pet shop windows around-the-clock. They have already learned that it's acceptable for them to soil their "home," making house-training more difficult for you later. They also have learned to retreat in timidity, for fear of being held one more time against their wishes. Remember, puppies at the adoptable ages need 60-80% sleeping time. If they're on constant display for potential buyers, they can develop problems from frequently disrupted sleep.



Most members of the Samoyed Club of America subscribe to a [Code of Ethics](#) which prohibits the sale, consignment, or transfer of their puppies or adults to pet shops or to individuals contemplating breeding for and/or sale to pet shops.

AVOIDING HEREDITARY PROBLEMS

Sound, healthy puppies come from sound, healthy parents. Reputable breeders test breeding prospects for hereditary problems. This is expensive, but necessary to assure strength in future generations.

Samoyeds are relatively free from hereditary problems, probably because the breed developed through "survival of the fittest" in a harsh environment.

However, there are some major abnormalities to which Samoyeds are susceptible. The parents of the Samoyed you're considering should be certified free of hereditary hip and eye problems. The [Orthopedic Foundation for Animals \(OFA\)](#) certifies hips and the [Canine Eye Registration Foundation \(CERF\)](#) certifies eyes. Certification can also be obtained from specialists practicing veterinary radiology or ophthalmology. Most veterinarians do not specialize.

Hip Dysplasia (HD):

This term describes abnormal skeletal structure or looseness in the hip joints. HD affects both sexes and is most prominent in large fast developing breeds. An incurable, hereditary malformation, it can be crippling and progressively painful. Dysplastic dogs should never be bred.

HD is not always visible to the naked eye by watching a dog's movement. *Only an accurately read x-ray can positively determine the status of the hip joints.*

A veterinarian takes the x-ray which is sent to the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA), at 2300 Nifong Boulevard, Columbia, Missouri 65201. Three trained radiology specialists "read" the film. If the dog's hips clear their exam, the dog is assigned a number and is certified as radiographically free of hip dysplasia. OFA will only certify dogs at least two years old. *All potential breeding stock should be x-rayed and declared clear before breeding.*

Remember, *no* breeder can promise in advance that a puppy will not be dysplastic. The status of the *puppy's* hips is undetermined, but determining the quality of the parents' hips is the best indication of what genes the puppy might carry. A breeder should supply the parents' certifications.

Hereditary Eye Abnormalities:

Progressive Retinal Atrophy (PRA), cataracts, corneal dystrophy, glaucoma and other eye problems are not as prevalent as hip dysplasia, but are of concern because they can result in blindness, often at very young ages.

Like hips, eyes should be checked before breeding. Many owners living on intimate terms with their dogs will fail to detect some of these abnormalities in their early stages. A regular vet is ill equipped to examine a dog's eyes. *Only a licensed veterinary ophthalmologist can verify the status of a dog's eyes.*

After examining the dog's eyes, the ophthalmologist will give the owner a formal written report. At minimum, you should be able to obtain a copy of this report for each parent. The ophthalmologist has also sent a copy of this report to the Canine Eye Registration Foundation (CERF), at 1248 Lynn Hall, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN 47907. Many breeders will then register their dogs individually with CERF, and the dog will have a CERF number. Even young puppies can be registered with CERF and some breeders have their puppies' eyes checked before sale.

Because of the varying age of onset of many of these eye problems, a dog should be rechecked throughout its life. CERF considers its numbers to be valid for one year. A Samoyed CERF number reads like SA-1999/97-33. This means that the Samoyed (SA) was the 1,999th Samoyed to be registered with CERF, that his eye exam was performed in 1997 (97) and that he was 33 months (33) old at the time of the exam. You should look for either a recent year or an age of at least seven years (84 months).

Again, remember, *no* breeder can promise in advance that a puppy will not have eye problems. The status of the *puppy's* eyes is undetermined. But determining the quality of the parents' eyes is the best indication of what genes the puppy might carry. Look for "CERF numbers" or licensed veterinary ophthalmologist's reports.

Heart Defects:

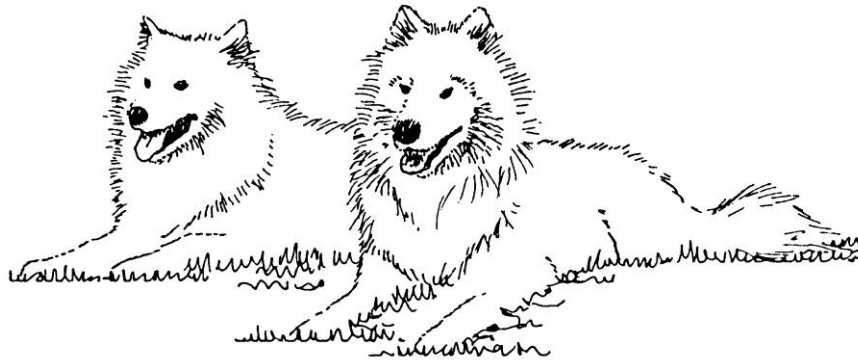
Heart defects can be mild to serious. Serious defects can be fatal, most often in the early years.

All potential breeding stock should have a complete health exam including an exam for heart abnormalities.

All puppies should be thoroughly examined by a veterinarian before the sale is considered complete.

A murmur or irregular heartbeat might be indicative of severe problems which could cause death. However, a puppy's heart goes through many developmental stages and murmurs which simply disappear, never to return, are not uncommon. A veterinarian can advise you on the difference.

Merely having good hips and eyes and being reasonably healthy does not automatically make an animal fit for breeding. Certificates are issued for hips and eyes because these faults cannot be seen without the aid of special equipment. While environment does play a role, most structural and temperamental defects are hereditary and most are readily observable to the trained eye. Remember, when choosing your dog's parents that there are other more obvious faults which are not "certifiable" that also make an animal unfit for breeding.



YOUR PUPPY'S BEGINNING

Long before meeting you, your puppy's temperament, disposition, health and attitude will be shaped and directed in many ways. Much was predetermined at the moment of conception. To obtain a healthy pet, you should consider the answers to these questions.

- ✓ Was the dam healthy at conception?
- ✓ Was she well cared for during her pregnancy?
- ✓ Were her vaccinations current prior to breeding?
- ✓ Is she a sound, quality animal, and is she free of hip dysplasia, eye abnormalities and health and heart problems?
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- ✓ Is he of good temperament?
- ✓ Was the puppy born in clean, warm surroundings?
- ✓ Was the puppy made to feel secure?
- ✓ Was the puppy introduced to people in a gentle manner?
- ✓ Was the puppy fed well?
- ✓ Was the puppy checked and treated for worms?
- ✓ Was the puppy vaccinated properly?
- ✓ Were the puppy's quarters free of parasites?

When buying from a responsible breeder, it is possible to visit the kennel to observe the conditions in which the puppy was raised.

SELECTING YOUR PUPPY

If you truly intend to show or breed, be honest with the breeder and yourself. Be prepared to pay more for the better quality puppy of a litter. A puppy of less quality may ultimately cost you more - more money, more time, more shows. A better quality puppy has the potential to produce better quality.

If you want to compete in obedience, do not compromise on essential soundness of mind and body. The advanced levels of obedience training will overly tax a poorly structured animal. Willingness to please and a self-confident attitude will make training easier.

If you aren't interested in showing or breeding, again, be honest, or you may find yourself pressured to exhibit your dog because the breeder placed one of the best pups with you assuming that you *would* show.

Once your intentions are clear, the breeder can show you the puppy or puppies which would be best-suited to your purpose. At this point, you can select the pup that pleases you. Whether there is only one suitable puppy available, or several, remember to compare them to the breed standard. Rare traits can be Mother Nature's warning that there is something wrong with the puppy. The AKC breed standard for Samoyeds was carefully developed to cover what a Samoyed should be. Rare is not better.



Personality

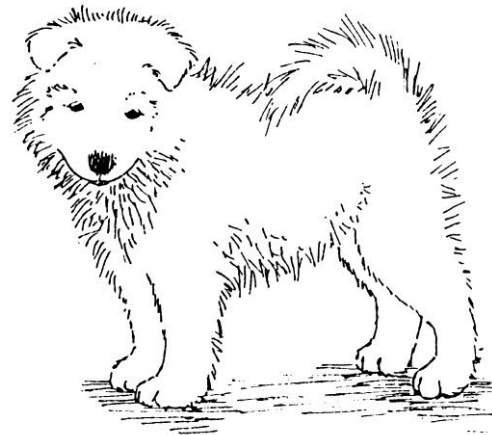
Observe the following characteristics. These either/or choices do not imply that a certain characteristic is good or bad. They are intended to help you choose the puppy that is right for *you*.

- ✓ Does the puppy respond to you with curiosity, or does it seem retiring and shy?
- ✓ Does it seem aggressive, playful, or quiet?
- ✓ Is it amused with new objects, attentive to strange noises, or content to cuddle?
- ✓ Is it affectionate when picked up or would it rather be continuing its own activities?
- ✓ Does it come when called (dependent or adaptable) or take its time or ignore you (independent)?

Health

Pay attention to the puppy's overall appearance.

- ✓ Does the puppy seem sturdy?
- ✓ Are the eyes clear and bright?
- ✓ Are the ears clean and healthy looking, or are they dirty or waxy?
- ✓ Is there any discharge from the nose?
- ✓ Is the tummy firm and free from rashes?



Observe the puppy's stool. It should be medium to dark colored and well-formed. Diarrhea, bloody, whitish or grey colored stools are indicative of problems.

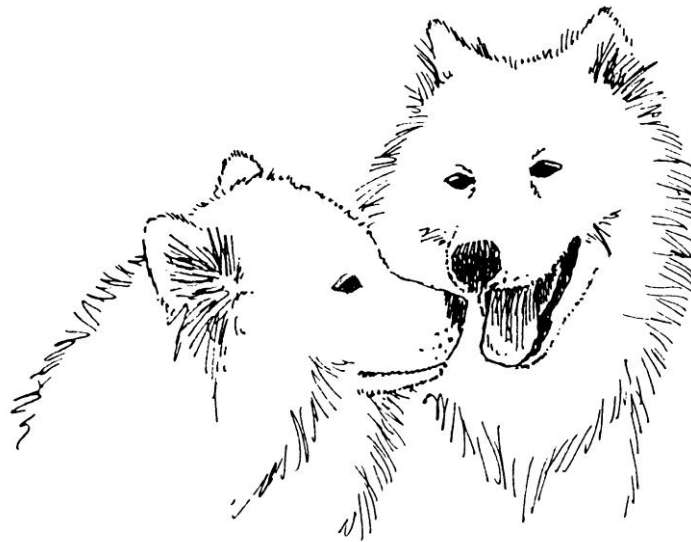
Since you are buying through a contract, you may make your purchase subject to a health check by your own veterinarian.

Sex

Many prospective dog owners have already formed opinions about differences between male and female dogs either because they have lived with one or another previously, or because they have heard casual comments about dogs that have influenced them. If you have strong feelings on this issue, you will probably only be happy with the sex of your preference.

Those who have lived intimately with Samoyeds of both sexes for a number of years will tell you that they are of similar temperament. The temperament described by the breed standard should be exhibited by both males and females. Each Sammy is an individual within that range of acceptable breed temperament. For example, some Sammies *always* come when called whether they are male or female. Some Sammies *never* come when called, again regardless of their sex. If you are selecting your puppy on the basis of temperament, the personality questions listed above will be of greater value to you than will making a decision on the basis of sex. If you desire very specific temperamental or behavioral characteristics, keep those in mind when observing the parents of your prospective companion.

There *are* physical differences between males and females. Size varies and can be predicted more by the relatives than by the sex, but males do carry more coat and are more striking in appearance.



PUPPY OR ADULT?

If you're seeking a new companion, but question your ability, patience, or whether you have time to train a young puppy, consider an older dog. There are big advantages.

Often a breeder knows of an adult dog who needs a new home because of relocation, death or other turmoil in the dog's family. This dog has usually been trained, may already be neutered, and may even have had some obedience training. There will still be adjustments to a new environment, and the transfer of loyalty and respect, but Samoyeds adjust readily, if made to feel totally loved and wanted.

Sometimes, breeders find themselves with Champions which they will not continue to show and may have no plans to breed, that are young enough to provide many years of loving companionship for a new family.

Occasionally breeders have adolescent dogs available. Sometimes two or more littermates were kept so the breeder could make a decision at a later age. The available littermate might well be a fine show prospect or an especially lovely pet.

These dogs may be neutered and placed as pets, or they may be sold outright or on a co-ownership to show or breed. If not Champions already, all of these dogs will have been bred and raised as if they *will* become Champions. They will be old enough to have their hips and eyes checked, a plus if you are looking for a serious breeding prospect.

Most will have a good deal of training, and often will be used to traveling. House-training at these ages will be determined by whether they have lived as house-dogs or kennel-dogs. A dog kenneled until early adulthood *will* need a little extra patience some days. However, when house-training a puppy, you have to work on both the basic concept as well as deal with the puppy's limited bladder control. Training an adult only requires establishing the concept as they already have control.

There are also several "Samoyed Rescue" organizations that look for loving homes for purebreds who have been abandoned, but are capable of giving much love and companionship.

NEUTERING YOUR PET

SCA members use the word "pet" specifically to mean a dog that is sound and healthy, with a good temperament, but not graded at the highest level and thus not breeding quality. Improvement of the breed, or even maintaining quality, is not possible by allowing two "pets" to breed. So, responsible breeders will often *require* that pet puppies be neutered. Females must be spayed (ovariohysterectomy) and males have either a castration or a vasectomy, with the choice usually left to the owner.

Simply put, there are far too many dogs for the homes available. Millions of dogs are killed in humane societies each year. Any unneutered animal is a potential contributor to the tragedy. Carefully selecting the dogs to be used for breeding and limiting the breeding potential of the remainder secures the future of the breed while assuring that our Samoyeds will not await death in the humane societies or tragedy on the streets. Many myths surround this subject:

MYTH: Neutered animals get fat.

Dogs, like People, get fat due to two things – too much food and/or too little exercise. Both are controlled directly by the owner. Owners have been known to let *unneutered* dog get fat.

MYTH: All females should have one litter.

There is absolutely no evidence to indicate that having a litter affects the psychological or physical development of the female. On the contrary, having a litter at a very early age can be terrible for both the dam and the puppies, as the female is too young for such responsibility. There are dangers in having a litter, including the possible death of the dam. If every female had one litter, millions more would have to be killed.

MYTH: Neutered animals are unhappy.

Actually, a neutered dog may be happier. An unneutered female will have to spend time confined. If you have unneutered animals of both sexes, you must separate them for six weeks of the year, to prevent an unplanned pregnancy. A female's heat period lasts approximately three weeks and usually occurs twice a year. A female has the desire to breed only during this cycle. If neutered, the cycle does not occur, the female has no desire to breed, and therefore cannot be "unhappy." Males are able to mate year around, but the desire to breed is a reaction to the odor of a female in heat. Without that stimulus, the sex drive is suppressed. Castrated males do not react to these odors, and so they too cannot be unhappy.

Neutered males may live and play together with little concern over dominance and territory.

Neutered dogs of either sex have a greater life expectancy.

MYTH: Neutered animals undergo a personality change.

Hormones contribute to the shaping of many behavior patterns in dogs. However, once formed, a behavior can become a habit, no longer requiring an internal stimulus to elicit the reaction.

Breeders generally recommend that females have one heat before being neutered, to allow the hormonal changes of the first season to contribute to the development of the adult female personality. These hormones help the female develop both mentally and physically. Statistically, the earlier a female is neutered, the less likely she will be to develop breast tumors. However, since breast tumors are neither common, nor should they be fatal, waiting for one season is an excellent compromise between personality development/physical development and later health.

Males can generally be neutered after about ten months of age, again allowing time for the hormonal changes associated with sexual maturity to occur. A neutered dog will be a pleasing companion.

Rather than changing a dog's personality, the fact is that neutering will *not necessarily* correct bad behavior once the pattern has become a habit.

CO-OWNERSHIP?

Normally when you buy an AKC registerable dog you are given the dog's ownership in full. However, there are several situations in which co-ownership should be considered. Any co-ownership should be defined by a written contract, signed by all parties, because problems can develop even between friends or family.

Here are some of the questions which should be answered in the contract.

- ✓ Who will have possession of the dog?
- ✓ Who decides where and when to show the dog?
- ✓ Who does the grooming?
- ✓ Who does the showing?
- ✓ Who is responsible for care? (Food, vet, entry fees for shows, breeding expense, shipping expense, litter expense?)
- ✓ If a female, who decides when to breed her and who chooses the stud?
- ✓ Who owns the co-owned dog's puppies?
- ✓ Who picks which puppies to keep and how is the litter divided?
- ✓ Who retains the money from puppy sales or stud fees and who sets the prices?
- ✓ If a male, do all co-owners have automatic access to use of the dog as a stud, and who makes the decision about which females to accept for breeding.

Aside from the interpersonal problems, the dog can become a victim in an unhappy co-ownership.

A SAMOYED'S LIFE SPAN

A Samoyed's life expectancy is twelve to fifteen years. Spayed females and castrated males seem to enjoy a longer life, reaching the higher end of this range.

Think of that span of time before you buy a puppy on impulse. Where will you be living in five or ten years? Who will be sharing your home? Are you ready for a long term relationship?

Purchasing a sound, healthy puppy and caring for it well with good diet, plenty of sun and exercise, proper medical attention, and freely given affection will be a sound investment in assuring the longest possible life for your cherished companion.



These booklets were drafted by the 1987 and 1988 Samoyed Club of America Education Committees, and reviewed and approved by the 1988 Samoyed Club of America Board of Governors and the second edition by the 1997 SCA Board. This series of booklets is presented to help educate the future Samoyed fancier.

The Samoyed Club of America, Inc. (SCA) is a 1600 member strong national organization of Samoyed owners, breeders and exhibitors, dedicated to preserving, promoting and protecting the Samoyed breed. The SCA is governed by five officers and ten members of the Board of Governors. An effort is made to see that governors come from all areas of the country. Membership requires that you be eighteen years of age, own a Samoyed, have read and agree to abide by the Club's Constitution and By-Laws and are sponsored by two members in good standing.

One of the main purposes of the SCA is to do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of the breed and bring it to perfection according to the written standard. As the Parent Club of the Breed, the SCA is the guardian of the Samoyed Standard. Any changes in that standard must be approved by the membership. In addition, the SCA takes an active role in educating those interested in the breed, from the owner of a first puppy to AKC judges.

The SCA holds one specialty show a year commonly known as "the National." A "specialty" dog show is a show limited to the exhibition of one breed. So in this case, it is a show for Samoyeds only. This national specialty rotates across the country, making it easily accessible to each member every five years. The other four years, those not in the specialty area move mountains to attend. However, every Samoyed in the country can be exhibited at the National sometime during its prime without having to travel across the country.

The SCA publishes a magazine called the *SCA BULLETIN* in the months of March, April, June, September and December which contains informational articles as well as breed advertising. It is available on a subscription basis to members only. When available, single copies of *SCA BULLETINS* already in print may be purchased by non-members.

The SCA website: <http://www.samoyedclubofamerica.org> has additional information. Questions regarding the breed and club, and requests for Information Packets, Breeder Referral, and all other SCA publications should be directed to the Samoyed Club of America Corresponding Secretary:

Kathy Mackai
7909 Stevens Ave So
Bloomington, MN 55420
SCA Corresponding Secretary
infosca@comcast.net

A current address for the Samoyed Club of America is also available from the [American Kennel Club](#), 8051 Arco Corp Drive, Ste 100, Raleigh, NC 27617, (919) 233-9767,



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