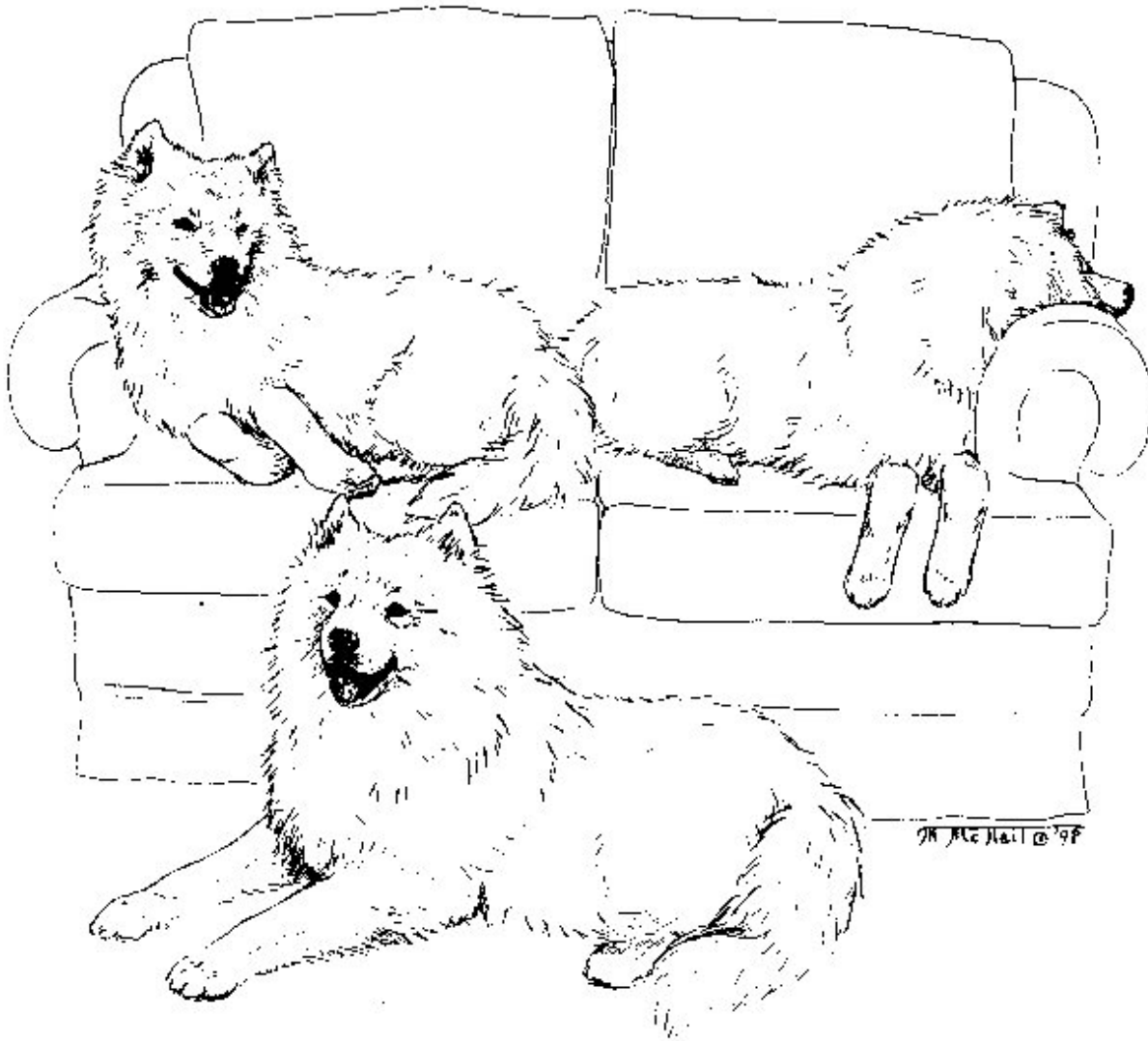


# Living With Your Samoyed



***THE SAMOYED CLUB OF AMERICA, INC***

# LIVING WITH YOUR SAMOYED

Congratulations on owning a Samoyed. Proper training, love, and care for your new puppy and best friend will provide you and your family with years filled with love, enjoyment, and loyalty. As the master of your dog, it is your responsibility to make sure that you prepare your dog for his or her life as your companion. The information in this publication is intended to give you the preliminary knowledge, guidelines, and assistance that are essential for the basic care and training of your Samoyed. It is important to provide for the safety, physical and emotional well being of your dog, since he or she is dependent on your care. By following the suggestions in this booklet, in addition to reference materials in other books, you will enjoy many years of enjoyment and happiness with your new Samoyed and best friend.

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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## PREFACE

This manuscript is intended both as a basic Primer on owning a Samoyed and as a practical guide to raising a Samoyed. The explanations in each of the sections are meant to provide insight into purchasing, and caring for your dog from "puppyhood" through adulthood. The information that appears in context was compiled from a number of primary and secondary sources. It provides an overview of the more critical aspects involved in raising and enjoying the pure bred Samoyed. Both novices and experienced dog owners can refer to the information contained in this guide for assistance with specific problems and/or concerns.

A bibliography appears at the conclusion of this manual. The titles listed will provide you with additional information and source materials for further reference. Additional information can also be obtained by contacting the Samoyed Club of America at the address listed below:

Kathy Mackai  
7909 Stevens Ave So  
Bloomington, MN 55420  
SCA Corresponding Secretary  
[infosca@comcast.net](mailto:infosca@comcast.net)

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# THE SAMOYED

The SAMOYED, "known as the big, white dog that carries in its face and heart the spirit of Christmas the whole year through," is one of the oldest breeds of living dogs. The primitive Samoyed peoples, for whom the breed is named, lived for generations in the harsh tundra between the White Sea and the Yenisei River in Northern Siberia. Here they were dependent on reindeer for existence, and their dogs were reindeer herders and sledge dogs. On the great Arctic and Antarctic expeditions at the turn of the century, Samoyeds proved their value as working dogs. Dogs surviving these expeditions returned to England, Australia, and New Zealand to give the breed a start in the Western World. Bred for eye-catching beauty with their sparkling, silver-tipped coats and smiling faces, Samoyeds still have the strong, sturdy body of a working dog.

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## **GUIDELINES FOR PURCHASING**

### **A SAMOYED PUPPY**

#### **DOING YOUR HOMEWORK FIRST**

Prior to selecting a Samoyed puppy, it is wise to take time to learn as much as possible about the breed and to consider the requirements (i.e., costs, needed space, training, time, exercise, grooming, etc.) along with the responsibility that you will be undertaking in caring for your new companion. Are you willing to walk your dog in rainy and/or snowy weather? Do you have a fenced-in yard area?

How much do you know about the Samoyed breed (i.e., its history, its characteristics and temperament, etc.)? You should be aware that the Samoyed is a dog that enjoys talking, both verbally and with body language (i.e., barking, howling, nudging, pawing, etc.) It also does not enjoy being alone, but rather likes to be in the company of people. If a Samoyed becomes bored or upset, it can redecorate your home. A Samoyed also sheds its long white coat once or twice a year. However, this shedding can be controlled when the dog is regularly groomed and properly brushed. The Samoyed hair is waterproof. When the dog sheds, its soft white "Sammy" hair can be collected, spun into yarn, and used for knitting lovely garments.

The American Kennel Club and The Samoyed Club of America can assist you with acquiring some information and insight into finding out more about the fascinating background and natural characteristics of this unique breed. These organizations can also supply you with a list of reputable breeders in your area. Books and pamphlets are excellent sources for finding additional information with regard to purchasing and caring for a Samoyed puppy. You must remember that when you buy a puppy, you are making a commitment to care for a living animal who cannot care for itself. As the puppy grows, it will love and become attached to its owners for its entire life.

#### **SELECTING A SAMOYED PUPPY FROM A REPUTABLE BREEDER**

After you complete your preliminary homework about the Samoyed breed, it is advantageous to select a good breeder in your geographic area. You can obtain a list of the breeders in your locality by writing to The [American Kennel Club](#) at the American Kennel Club, 8051 Arco Corp Drive, Ste 100, Raleigh, NC 27617 or from the Samoyed Club of America, Inc., Kathy Mackai [[infosca@comcast.net](mailto:infosca@comcast.net)] Corresponding Secretary, 7909 Stevens Ave.So., Bloomington, MN 55420. or the SCA online [Breeder Referral Page](#). You should also attend a dog show in your area, where you can observe the dogs and speak to some of the breeders and/or exhibitors. A list of breeders can be obtained from dog publications such as the AKC Gazette, Dog World, Dog Fancy, etc.

After you have spoken to a few breeders, you should request to visit their kennels in order to observe the dogs (i.e., appearance, cleanliness, friendliness, etc.) and ask specific questions that will provide pertinent information about the breeders and their puppies. The quality of the dogs that are bred should not be overlooked. It is best to look at a few litters of puppies, in order to find a good litter, even if it is farther away. In addition, if a litter is not available, you may have to be prepared to wait for the puppy of your choice.

### **THINGS TO OBSERVE WHEN EXAMINING A LITTER**

When you look at a litter of puppies, you should note if the puppies are lively, alert, happy, healthy, friendly, and playful. Do they have good coats? Are the surroundings clean? Are they well kept? Do the puppies move well? Although the mother of the litter may not look her best at this time, you can make some skillful observations. How is the mother's temperament? Is she friendly? Outgoing? Happy? People oriented?

### **A "CHECKLIST" OF PAPERS AND RECORDS A BREEDER AND/OR THE AKC SHOULD FURNISH**

Once you have made your decision, and selected the Samoyed puppy you want to purchase, it is important that you receive the appropriate pedigree and proper registration of your purebred Samoyed puppy.

These papers should include the following:

1. A pedigree that contains at least three generations and that is signed by the seller. The registration numbers of at least the sire and the dam should appear on the pedigree along with each of their colors. (You should not be charged for this paper). A pedigree can also be obtained from the [American Kennel Club](#) (AKC). However, there is a fee when it is obtained from the AKC.
2. An American Kennel Club registration form which identifies your puppy's litter registration number, birth date, sex, sire and dam, and the name of the registered breeder. The official (small blue paper) confirms your puppy is "pure-bred." The breeder usually applies for this form when the puppies are first whelped; however, there are times when the form has not been returned to the breeder by the time the puppy is sold. When that happens, the registration form should be forwarded to the owner of the new puppy at a later date. (You should not be charged for the registration papers.)
3. When you receive the official registration form for your puppy, it is your responsibility to sign it as the new owner and send it to the A.K.C. A registration fee must be included. You will receive the new Registration Certificate from the A.K.C.

within a few weeks. This certificate is the official evidence of ownership for your purebred puppy.

The following records should also be provided to you by the breeder:

1. The OFA numbers of the sire and dam and/or clearance that will decrease the likelihood of hip dysplasia in a dog.
2. A certificate from the [Canine Eye Registration Foundation \(CERF\)](#) assuring that the parent dogs are free from eye problems and/or defects that can cause blindness.
3. Dates and types of worming medication that the puppy has received, if any were administered. It is not wise to worm your own puppy, since improper worming can be dangerous and even fatal. Consult your veterinarian about worming your dog safely.
4. The dates and types of inoculations that have been administered (i.e., parvovirus, distemper, hepatitis, leptospirosis, etc.). Immunization for rabies is usually administered at the age prescribed by your veterinarian. In fact, your own veterinarian will best advise you on the entire immunization schedule in order to follow through in a well-planned protection program for your dog. (Please refer to A Responsible Health Care Program).
5. Diet and/or nutritional program for your puppy. This information should be written for easy reference. It should include the amount of food and the number of feedings per day that are required for your puppy. You should not make any changes in the diet or feeding routine for approximately one week, after which you can make gradual adjustments to your puppy's diet. Therefore, make certain that the puppy food is readily available at your local supermarket or pet store or purchase a small amount from the breeder in order to avoid subjecting the puppy to any immediate changes.

The breeder should also show an interest in following-up on the placement of the puppy in its new home. If any problems do arise during the first days or weeks that you have your puppy, you should be able to contact the breeder for advice. The Samoyed breeder is most familiar with Samoyed puppies and can give you practical suggestions. This type of advice is not readily available in general all breed books and reference materials. Remember a Samoyed puppy has a uniqueness and personality that is not found in other breeds.

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# **GUIDELINES FOR THE PROPER CARE AND TRAINING OF YOUR NEW SAMOYED PUPPY**

## **Preparing a Place for Your New Puppy**

You must consider preparing a safe place for a new puppy, prior to bringing it home. It is extremely important to "baby proof" or "puppy proof" your house. This is essential in order to keep your puppy safe from hazardous materials and dangerous objects. A Samoyed puppy is playful and has a natural curiosity to explore and find things, which could harm him or her. Many puppies have become sick and even died due to injuries received from deadly attractions such as nails, plant leaves, detergents, medicines, anti-freeze (which is sweet tasting), electric cords, chocolate candy, electric appliances, etc. Therefore, it is your responsibility to protect your puppy from any of these dangers. Gates and crates are an excellent way to restrict your puppy and to protect it from exploring its way into troublesome situations as well as to start a proper training program.

Other essential provisions for your new puppy include safe chew toys, non-chewable dishes, treats, and puppy food for proper nutrition. A Samoyed puppy is quite strong. Therefore, when purchasing chew toys for your puppy, make certain that the toys are large enough so that they cannot be swallowed and that there are no loose parts or pieces that the puppy can tear off and choke on. Feeding dishes should also be strong and unbreakable (i.e., stainless steel bowls).

Since a Samoyed's "puppyhood" is the most critical period of its formative life, it is imperative to provide the proper health and nutritional care to insure that your puppy will grow into a strong, healthy dog. Therefore, it is wise to discuss the type of food and feeding schedules that the puppy has been accustomed to with the puppy's breeder before taking it home. The breeder will be happy to recommend a proper diet and even equip you with a small amount of food that the puppy has been used to until you can purchase it. Maintaining a consistent diet will safeguard the puppy from stomach upsets due to different foods. In fact, when making dietary changes, it is always prudent to do it gradually. Dietary transitions could cause stress and digestive upsets. Overfeeding can also cause digestive problems and affect the health of your puppy. It is best to feed your puppy or dog at the same time every day and to make certain that you provide fresh water at all times.

## **Puppy Proofing Your Home**

A Samoyed puppy is extremely playful and has a natural curiosity to roam and explore the world around him or her. The puppy is totally unaware of the numerous dangers that are present in its surroundings. Therefore, in order to prevent the heartbreak of seeing

your puppy hurt or worse, you must take the precautions that are necessary to keep your puppy safe. This means you must "puppy proof" your home.

When you "puppy proof" your home, you will be doing almost the same things you would do when you baby proof a house. Electrical cords must be hidden or tucked out of sight, since many puppies have been electrocuted from biting electric cords and others have been strangled by getting caught in them. Puppies should not be allowed near electrical appliances when they are in use. After you have finished using appliances, they should be removed and placed out of reach. Plug guards or covers should be placed on electrical outlets. Cords from venetian blinds and telephones must also be hidden and out of reach.

In addition, all household detergents, cleaning agents, medicines, chocolate, chemicals, paints, light bulbs, paper clips, pens, staples, etc. should be unreachable and secured. If dangerous items are stored in cabinets and/or closets, be certain that the doors are firmly secured since some dogs have learned to open closet doors. Therefore, it is prudent to check that doors are not able to be opened by your dog. Even many household plants that may seem harmless, can be deadly if they are poisonous. Therefore, you must take every precaution to pick up all items which can be harmful to your puppy or dog and keep them completely out of reach.

It is not only important to "puppy proof" the inside of your home, but it is equally important to "puppy proof" the outside of your house as well. Yard tools, fertilizers, insecticides, chemicals, antifreeze, outside lights, etc. can be just as attractive and deadly to your puppy as the dangers that exist inside your home. Even rocks, as well as all types of balls (i.e., tennis, ping-pong, golf), twigs, etc. can be swallowed and cause deadly intestinal blockage. Outdoor plants such as lilies, bulb plants (i.e., iris, hyacinths, daffodils, etc.), holly, and other evergreens are poisonous and should not be in the proximity of your yard where the puppy can chew on them. It is best to check with your nursery to find out which other plants in your yard are poisonous to dogs.

During the holidays, there are many other dangerous objects that you must be aware of in order to protect your puppy (Refer to Chapter VII). Therefore, you must take every precaution possible to protect your puppy and keep it safe by "puppy proofing" your home and yard. It is always best to supervise your puppy when it is playing outside of its protected area.

### **Bringing Your Puppy Home**

It is best to ask the breeder to withhold food prior to picking up your puppy. Before placing the puppy in a car, you should find out whether it has ever been in a car before. The breeder will be happy to give you any helpful hints to make the ride less traumatic for the puppy. During its ride home it is important not to scare the puppy with loud noises or over handle it. Be prepared with paper towels, in case it becomes upset and

vomits. You should not scold it, if this happens. If the ride home is a long one, you might want to have a large box with newspapers in the car, where the puppy can be placed to feel comfortable, and where it can relieve itself, if it needs to. It is not wise to stop and exercise the puppy along the way, since the puppy has not been completely immunized and can pick up germs left by other animals and become sick.

When you first arrive home, allow the puppy to eliminate outside first. After that, it should be introduced into its new environment - a safe, warm, and comfortable place that has been prepared for it, where it can relax and play. In order to reduce its fear of the new surroundings, the puppy should be allowed to sniff and explore its new area, since its new home and surroundings will be strange to it, causing it to be fearful and whimper for the first few days. Since it is the first time that your puppy is away from its mother, it is essential that you be there to reassure it and give it a sense of security. In addition, you might want to consider placing a ticking clock and/or warm water bottle nearby. This has been recommended to give the puppy a sense of its mother's presence. The warm water bottle should be puppy proof (e.g., not able to be opened or damaged). If the puppy whimpers, try to reassure it without handling it. Walk out of the room for short periods at a time, so that it can become adjusted to being alone a little at a time.

During the first few days do not overwhelm the puppy with relatives and friends. The puppy should become familiar with each of the family members. Children should be taught how to approach and handle the puppy carefully, to prevent it from becoming frightened or injured. Samoyed puppies are strong and have often been dropped on the ground by children and adults.

Even though the puppy is adorable, avoid over-handling it. The puppy should be given an appropriate amount of time to socialize, play, and relax in order to grow into a healthy and well-adjusted adult dog.

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## **A RESPONSIBLE HEALTH CARE PROGRAM**

A responsible health care program is essential and must be provided for the proper growth of your puppy. In addition to good nutrition, daily exercise, and grooming, your puppy will need an ongoing professional health care program, including vaccinations and checkups throughout its life, in order to remain happy and healthy. Therefore, you should find a veterinarian in your area that has a good reputation that you can trust, and that will be available to care for your dog during emergency situations. If you are unfamiliar with the veterinarians in your area, other dog owners can usually be helpful. Word-of-mouth recommendations still remain an effective way of locating a well-respected veterinarian who possesses the qualities of being a good and caring person, and who can administer the proper medical care for your Samoyed's needs. Remember that

the veterinarian you select will be the person to take care of your dog when it is sick or injured.

### **The First Visit to the Veterinarian**

You should make an appointment to take your puppy to be examined by the veterinarian within 48 hours after you have purchased it. During this visit you should provide the veterinarian all the information regarding the dates and types of inoculations that were administered to the puppy by the breeder and the dates and type of worming medication, if any. After the veterinarian has examined the puppy, he or she will prescribe an appropriate time-table for the puppy's follow-up visits and immunization program. At this time you should also be able to discuss any questions that you might have with the veterinarian.

During the visit to the veterinarian, you may wish to discuss a good nutritional program for your puppy, along with any vitamins or supplements that might be appropriately suggested to enhance the puppy's health and growth. Many veterinarians will explain the benefits of different types of diets and foods that have been found to be good and nutritious, as well as suitable schedules and proper amounts of food that are appropriate for your dog. Since each puppy has its own individual needs, the veterinarian can determine and suggest the best types of vitamins and/or supplements to maintain your puppy's health.

Prior to leaving the veterinarian's office, it is best to make an appointment for a follow-up visit.

### **How to Recognize if Your Samoyed Is Not Feeling Well**

Since a puppy or dog cannot talk, it is unable to tell when it doesn't feel well. Therefore, it is up to you to recognize and observe tell tale signs that can warn you about the possibility of illness. Since the Samoyed breed is very hardy and does not often show signs of illness until it has reached a serious stage, the early signs to watch for are behavioral changes that are different from its normal ones, which may be the first indications that your dog is not feeling well. In addition, body language representing an abnormal demand for physical closeness or attention is another way that your Samoyed may try to let you know it is not feeling well. There are many other indications or common signs of illness that are more easily noticeable. They include vomiting, diarrhea, watery eyes and nose, hiding and/or secluding itself, lack of appetite, difficulty in chewing, pacing, restlessness, being extremely quiet, whimpering, wobbling, bumping into things, limping, stiffness, walking in circles, coughing, hoarseness, having a high temperature, rubbing its eyes, shaking its head, excessive biting or licking in one particular area, pale gums, swelling, redness, sores or bumps on the surface of the skin, stomach upset (i.e., gastroenteritis), bloating, and any other symptoms that might indicate that something is wrong.

If you do observe that something might be wrong with your Samoyed, it is best to seek veterinary assistance as quickly as possible, since some illnesses can be quite serious and even fatal. Keep in mind it is not recommended that you play doctor with your dog's life. Remember, your veterinarian is a professional who is specially trained to recognize many types of illnesses that are prevalent in our furry friends.

He or she will prescribe the best treatments for your dog. If you have any questions regarding the veterinarian's prescription, you should express them before taking your dog home. The veterinarian will want to be kept aware of your dog's progress. It is your responsibility to do this. Routine visits for annual checkups, heartworm and lyme disease tests, and tests for parasites (i.e., round worms, tape worms, whip worms, etc.) should be included in your dog's health care program to keep it in prime condition, inspiring the health and strength that reflects the magnificent beauty for which the Samoyed is so well known.

It is important to follow your veterinarian's advice and administer any medications that have been prescribed in order to help your Samoyed feel better. You should also realize that while your dog is not feeling well, it is best to feed it lightly and let it rest. A Samoyed is a strong dog and can recover quickly when it receives the right care.

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## **GUIDELINES FOR MAKING YOUR SAMOYED**

### **A WELL MANNERED AND TRUSTWORTHY FAMILY MEMBER**

#### **Advantages of Crates for Training**

Purchasing a "crate" is one of the greatest assets in training your new dog effectively. A crate is invaluable to begin training a new puppy, especially when the dog cannot be supervised. Many unsupervised puppies have been injured and even died due to their playfulness and curiosity. A crate will provide your puppy with a safe place that will keep it from playing with or chewing on electrical cords, appliances, poisonous plants, and other hazardous materials. In time many dog owners have found that a crate becomes the dog's own private room or bed where it can go to relax or enjoy playing with a toy. A crate can also be used with an older puppy who has acquired sloppy or bad habits and even with an older dog who needs retraining. **When you use a crate for training or just restricting your dog's activities, BE SURE TO REMOVE ALL COLLARS!** This is extremely important since the collar can get caught on the wires or the door and strangle the dog!

In addition to protecting your puppy from the surrounding dangers in your home, crates can also be a very important tool for housebreaking your new puppy. This part of your puppy's training is discussed on the following pages.

An excellent brochure on the technique and benefits of crate training is available by requesting "A Pet Owner's Guide to the Dog Crate" from the NICK MEYER EDUCATIONAL EFFORT, INC., 31 Davis Hill Road, Weston, CT. 06883, or phoning (203) 226-9877.

### **Advantages of Installing Gates**

Gates are extremely useful in order to provide your dog with additional freedom while still keeping it in a protected area, as it grows larger and gets older. Not only will a gate allow you to confine your dog in one area of your home, but it will give you the option to confine it there when you have guests that are allergic to dogs, have canine phobias, or are not particularly attracted to dogs. If you have more than one dog, gates can also provide a means of keeping them separated, if necessary.

### **Advantages of a Fenced in Yard**

Ideally, Samoyeds need the protective freedom of a fenced-in yard. If fencing the entire yard is prohibitive, consider fencing in a small portion of your yard area for your dog, or constructing a shaded kennel run. Samoyeds should never be chained, since the chain can become tangled and the dog can be choked to death. The Samoyed also wants to be close to people, and chaining encourages it to bark and dig in frustrated attempts to rejoin the family.

Never allow your Samoyed to roam free and teach it not to bolt through open doors. Samoyeds seem to have no fear of cars and are instinctively drawn to children. A sudden dash across the street could be the first and last for your pet. Besides traffic dangers, Samoyeds are extremely friendly and are often stolen. They can also become lost, or injured in fights with other dogs. In addition, females can have a "silent" heat cycle and could become pregnant even though you thought she was "safe."

Samoyeds are happiest when they are allowed to be in close human contact and prefer to sleep with their people (if not in the bedroom, at least somewhere in the house). This desire comes from the fact that the Samoyed people kept them inside their dwellings as pets and guardians and slept with their dogs at night in order to keep warm from the extremely cold temperatures in the Siberia. They also kept them by their sides during the day since they were so valuable as working companions.

### **Feeding**

Proper nutrition is imperative for a growing puppy and the basic foundation for raising a healthy dog. A high quality food which has been recommended by the breeder and/or veterinarian should be provided for your puppy. Dry foods can be mixed with canned or moist foods for variety. Check with your breeder or veterinarian for proper volume of

food that is needed for your puppy. Vitamins and/ or supplements should be administered as directed by the veterinarian.

Since your puppy is like a baby, a feeding schedule should be developed and adhered to in order to give it a sense of comfort and security. This will enable your puppy to sense when it will be fed. Most vets recommended feeding a young puppy three to four times a day and radically reduce the number of meals as the puppy gets older.

Puppies usually require three feedings per day by eight weeks of age. When the puppy reaches six months of age, only two meals are required. Adult dogs are usually fed once or twice a day. Your vet can advise you as to the best program for your individual dog.

Feeding time should be a happy experience for the puppy who will be anxiously waiting to "dig in." Some puppies may start barking as you prepare their food. You can start training and exert control if this happens by a verbal command that you are comfortable using (i.e., "no", "stop," "quiet," etc.). Set the puppy's bowl down in a cheerful way. Leave the food down for approximately 15 minutes, then remove the uneaten portion. This will teach your puppy good eating habits and prevent "grazing." If a puppy is too aggressive with its food, you can correct this by adding a bit of food to its bowl as it eats. The puppy will learn to step back as you add to its delicious meal.

It is extremely important that cool, fresh water always be available for your dog. However, when house training, water can be withheld through the late evening and night if it is not extremely hot.

In order to prevent gastric distress, which could develop into a life-threatening situation of bloat and/or gastric torsion, never exercise your puppy or dog vigorously before or after eating. In addition, do not overfeed your dog, since this can cause it to become overweight and/or develop other problems.

As your puppy grows into an adult dog, you can slowly wean it from the puppy food to adult food by increasing the ratio of adult food to puppy food. It is recommended to continue feeding an adult dog twice a day with two small meals rather than one large portion that can cause the dog to become hungry during the day.

Remember it is important to continue feeding your dog high quality dog food. Preservatives for long shelf life found in generic supermarket brands contain poor quality protein that can actually be harmful to your dog and cause malnutrition. Small amounts of table scraps can be added to your pet's food occasionally, but should not be substituted for your dog's regular diet. De-boned chicken, beef, lamb, fish, and other meats as well as vegetables such as carrots, potatoes, corn, and grains (i.e., brown rice) are good sources of protein and nutrients for your dog. Do not feed raw eggs, fatty foods, turkey dressings, etc.

If you are feeding more than one dog, it is strongly recommended that you feed them separately. Each one should have its own food dish to avoid squabbles and insure that each is receiving its fair share or nourishment. In addition, if any of them must be given special medicine or supplements, you can be certain that they are consumed properly.

Older dogs also require a high quality diet just as puppies do. Your veterinarian can advise you on the type which is best suited for your dog.

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## **Treats**

Flavored or unflavored hard biscuit treats are fine in moderation. Large American made rawhide treats or bones are also acceptable. Do not give your puppy or dog pencil-stick rawhide types of treats since they can accidentally become lodged in your pet's throat. If you desire to offer bones, the best types are large beef shank (leg) bones. Never give your dog pork or poultry bones since they can splinter too easily and rupture your dog's intestines. Chocolate treats can also be fatal since dogs cannot digest chocolate the same as people can.

## **Leash Training**

In order to train your puppy properly as well as protect it from dangers outside your home, early leash training is extremely important. In addition, most communities do have leash laws requiring that dogs be walked on a leash. Therefore you should accustom your puppy to his or her collar and leash as soon 'as possible. Some puppies become frightened and can resist a leash. In order to acquaint your puppy with a leash, you might want to attach it to its collar and allow it to walk with it as you hold it very loosely. If the puppy shows strong resistance to the leash, then let it walk alone with the attached lead, in its surrounding area, for short periods at a time. However, you must keep a watchful eye on it, since the leash can become caught or tangled.

As you toilet train your puppy outside, give it some lead to explore. As the puppy explores, teach it what are his boundaries. As you leash train, do not yank or pull the puppy around. Make leash training a positive learning experience.

## **House Training Your Puppy**

House training requires some preparation before the new puppy comes home. This would include a safe, clean, and secure place where the puppy will be confined. Ideally the room should have a floor that is washable with a surface that is not slippery and should be accessible to the outside. It should also be free of dangerous and/or valuable objects.

House training is a training period for the new puppy as well as yourself. The most important key to house training is for you to become familiar with the puppy's behavior patterns as soon as possible in order to provide an effective training program. The first few days of training will set the tone for what is acceptable behavior. Therefore, you should set aside two or three days for strict training.

Although housebreaking methods may vary, according to your lifestyle, there are general guidelines that you can utilize and that will greatly assist you during the training period. The key times that a dog eliminates are after sleeping, after feeding, after drinking, and after excitement, exercise, or play. Therefore you should adhere to the following guidelines which will help you to train your puppy:

1. As soon as you get up in the morning, pick the puppy up immediately. This will prevent it from eliminating before you are able to take it outside. Take the puppy outside. Praise it vigorously when it eliminates outside.
2. Feed the puppy and take it out between 5 to 15 minutes after feeding, when it will eliminate again. (Repeat this for all other feedings).
3. When the puppy drinks water, take it out 5 minutes later. It will usually eliminate 2 or 3 times after drinking.
4. The last feeding of the day for your puppy should be about 2 to 3 hours before it retires at night.
5. The dog's water should be withdrawn about 2 hours before it retires for the night. However, if the temperature is extremely hot, it might be necessary to leave the water until a short time before it falls asleep.
6. Take the puppy out before it falls asleep for the night.
7. If you are planning to leave the dog in a crate for several hours, it should be exercised before being placed in the crate.
8. As soon as a puppy or a dog is taken out of the crate, it should immediately be taken outside to eliminate and be exercised.
9. As your puppy relieves itself, repeat an appropriate phrase such as "go potty" so that later your dog will perform toilet duties on command for you, which will be quite helpful when you are in a great hurry.

As you walk your puppy outside, it is important to familiarize yourself with the puppy's behavior patterns in order to recognize when the dog wants to eliminate. The key signs to look for are as follows:

- 1) The puppy is sniffing as it is walking around - sometimes in a circle.
- 2) As the puppy is walking, it stops, spreads out its rear legs, and squats.
- 3) It walks to the exit door that leads to the outside area where it normally eliminates.

- 4) It follows you and whimpers (telling you it wants to go out).

It is normal for the puppy as well as yourself to make mistakes. No one is perfect. Sometimes you will make a mistake and be distracted, not realizing that the puppy needs to eliminate. At other times the puppy might make a few mistakes. If the puppy does make a mistake it is important to remember to correct it during the act or immediately after the mistake. Corrections that are not done immediately have little or no value. When you do correct your puppy, use simple commands. It is helpful to lower your voice and use the same expletive each time you do so (i.e., "no," "ehh," "aye," etc.). A high-pitched voice is non-threatening, while a low, deep one is quite threatening. Your Samoyed understands the difference.

### **Teething**

Puppies have a natural instinct to teeth. This instinct increases tremendously when the puppy becomes approximately four or five months old and starts to teethe. At this time its will lose its milk teeth which will be replaced by permanent teeth. This can cause discomfort for your puppy who will seek to alleviate the soreness by chewing on any objects in its surroundings (i.e., chair and table legs, pillows, shoes, curtains, bushes, twigs, etc.). This period can become very stressful for you as well as the puppy. Therefore, you should be prepared to have various chew toys available for the puppy to teethe on. These toys should be safe and free of small buttons or objects that the puppy can rip off and swallow. The toys should also be strong enough so that they cannot be torn apart causing your puppy to choke.

Rawhide toys are excellent and made especially for puppies and dogs to chew on. They are hard, and cannot be torn apart by a puppy. When you select rawhide toys, be certain that they are American made - to insure the high quality safety standards used in manufacturing them. Foreign-made rawhides are usually cured with arsenic, which is a known poison.

Your house should be "puppy proofed" so that the puppy will not be able to chew on electric cords, furniture, rugs, plants, poisons, and other valuable and/or harmful objects. You should keep your puppy restricted to its own area that should be made clear and safe for it. When you allow your puppy out of this area, you must keep a watchful eye on it in order to direct it to chew on its own toys when it is attracted to or desires other objects. Verbal commands and positive directives will assist your puppy to be guided to exercise its gums on its own toys.

When the puppy's milk teeth fall out, the new teeth should replace them by growing in the proper space to insure that the dog will have a correct bite. You should check to make certain that the bite is normal. If the dog does not have a correct bite, an occlusion can occur that can cause it to have a painful bite and other more serious problems including gum disease as it gets older. Although this is not common with Samoyeds, if

the dog does have any problems, they should be attended to as early as possible, since they can be corrected through veterinary dentistry.

It is natural for a puppy to bleed for a short time after it has lost a tooth. If the bleeding continues for several hours, it is important to consult your veterinarian since this can be an indication of a serious problem.

If a training accident does occur, it is an unpleasant experience for both the dog and its owner. Each training accident will also increase the length of time necessary to train the puppy since every accident reinforces the idea that the animal can eliminate in the house.

Therefore, you must remember that a good house training program requires a definite routine that must be followed conscientiously everyday. You should develop a schedule that can be effectively applied to the suggestions in this training program. If you follow this type of program, the puppy should show improvement with each passing day. However, if you do not see results, re-evaluate your training program to ascertain if you might be doing something wrong, or if you should readjust the training schedule according to your puppy's personal habits.

There are times that you may need to seek advice from the breeder or from your veterinarian, if you encounter problems with the houstraining program. Often puppies have worms and although unusual, some puppies do have urinary or intestinal problems that should be diagnosed and treated in order to provide the puppy and you with the opportunity for complete success. Once your puppy and you complete this part of the training, you will both have earned your first degree for achievement in house training.

After the house training is completed, you and your dog should not have any more difficulty in understanding its needs, unless for any reason you do not take it out to eliminate, or the dog becomes ill, in which case it might need special attention and/or a visit to the vet.

As the puppy grows into adulthood, it will continue to need toys to chew on throughout its lifetime. This will help to keep its teeth clean and maintain healthy gums. However, you should remember that a Samoyed is very strong and that many dogs have broken their teeth by chewing on hard bones. Therefore, it is best to be cautious when choosing your dog's toys. There are also a variety of new products specifically made for cleaning your dog's teeth that are readily available at pet stores. You can ask your veterinarian about the best methods to keep your Samoyed's teeth and gums in good condition. In addition, you should continue to provide your dog with safe chew toys throughout its life.

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## **BASIC GROOMING**

A Samoyed does not require as much care as some may think. The breed has a wonderful double coat that sheds dirt and repels snow and ice. Therefore, it is not difficult to keep your Samoyed with a sparkling clean and white coat. However, it does need to be bathed and groomed regularly to keep it beautiful and mat-free. In order to do this, you will need the proper grooming equipment which should include the following: a grooming table (which is optional and can be purchased through pet supply stores) or an elevated table, a small force dryer (also optional and available at pet supply stores), a good grade pin brush, a slicker brush, a coarse toothed metal comb, a fine toothed comb, a slant tooth mat comb, pet nail clippers, blunt nosed scissors, a good quality whitener shampoo, and conditioner. (Your breeder can also advise you on proper grooming.)

Start a good grooming program as early as possible. Teach your puppy how to stand and stay on the grooming table for short periods at a time, which will help you to groom it and even carry over when you visit the veterinarian.

### **Brushing and Combing**

Due to the Samoyed's double coat, it does require brushing at least once a week. If you have a force dryer, begin by blowing the dog's coat to remove any dust, dirt, particles, and dead hair first. Make certain to blow the legs and the under part of your dog. Never use a hot air dryer on your dog. The next step is to start brushing the coat. Briskly brush the coat upwards and towards the head (in the opposite direction of hair growth).

After you have completed the brushing, begin to comb on the thigh at the front leg where the hair is short. Part the hair with one hand, and with the comb in the other, begin combing up and out. Move your hand a little at a time and continue combing with the other until you have combed the entire coat. This should keep your dog mat-free and the hairballs in your house to a bare minimum.

### **Trimming the Feet**

Using a pair of blunt nosed scissors, trim the long hairs under the dog's feet, between its pads. This will keep your dog from picking up dirt, tar, seeds, and mud that will cause sore feet and soil your floors. Long hair under the dog's paws can decrease its traction. Keeping this hair trimmed will keep it from slipping and falling. You can also trim the hairs on the back of the legs between the paw and the hock in order to even them off.

Trim the toenails approximately every two weeks with a clipper that has double cutting blades. Cut the tip or white part of the nail just below the quick. You must not cut into the pink quick since it contains nerves and blood vessels, and is very tender. Therefore, do not cut the nail unless you can see the quick. If you accidentally slip and cut the

quick, use a styptic stick, baking flour, or a product called "Quick Stop" to stop the bleeding.

A Samoyed should never be shaved! The hair protects it from the cold and the heat and the skin will burn if exposed to the sun. Remember, half the glory of a Samoyed is his beautiful coat. The other is his sunny disposition and smiling face.

### **Bathing Your Samoyed**

A Samoyed should be bathed approximately once a month in order to keep it clean and the skin healthy. This will prevent the buildup of dander, allergens, and hot spots from occurring. A good quality whitener pet shampoo should be used.

Prior to bathing your Samoyed, it must be brushed out thoroughly in order to prevent matting and in order to get the coat sparkling white. After a thorough brushing, bathe your dog according to the following steps:

1. Place cotton balls in the dog's ears to prevent them from getting wet. If your dog is a male, place a little Vaseline on its testicles to prevent the skin from becoming dry and irritated. The Vaseline will be washed off during the bath.
2. Place the dog in a non-slippery bathtub or a large shower stall and wet the coat with a spray attachment. Apply the shampoo from the neck to the tip of the tail and in an X on the hips and shoulders. Scrub the entire dog. Extra scrubbing should be done over the elbows, hips, legs, and feet. Add extra shampoo to these areas as needed.
3. After the dog has been thoroughly scrubbed, start to rinse and rinse and rinse.
4. Apply more shampoo and scrub according to step one. After you finish scrubbing, wash the dog's face and ears with a washcloth making sure not to get any soap in the eyes. Then rinse the dog again. Make sure to give special attention to rinse under its neck, the ruff, the trousers, the underside, the legs, and the feet.
5. Use a rinse or conditioner on the dog following the directions on the bottle. If you prefer, you can prepare a rinse of water and white vinegar ahead of time to use on the coat. Rinse your dog again.
6. After the last rinse squeeze all the excess water along the entire coat. Then blot the rest of the water with towels. Let the dog shake itself. After you have blotted the coat, rub briskly (back and forth). Remember to remove the cotton from the dog's ears.

7. Place your dog on the grooming table. Blow dry the dog's coat using a powerful force dryer with warm air. **Never blow the dog with hot air.** Continue to blow and blow. Give special attention to the section on the back under the tail, the armpits, and the underside of the dog. If those areas are not dried properly, hot spots can develop. The dog should not have any "wash knots" if it was brushed properly prior to bathing. These knots are caused by dead hair and/or loose hair that are left in the coat before bathing. If you do not use a blow dryer, your dog can take up to 48 hours to dry.

When you have finished bathing your Samoyed, it will be breathtakingly beautiful with a sparkling, silver tipped coat that will be the envy of everyone who sees it.

The Samoyed's coat does repel dirt, snow, and ice. However, if your dog does become dirty or muddy and you can't give it a complete bath, let the mud dry, then brush the dried residue out of the coat. Most of the dirt will be shed from the coat and a good brushing should return the coat to its glistening state.

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### **USING THE HAIR FOR KNITTING**

When you brush your dog, you can collect and save the hair from your Samoyed. The hair is soft and luxurious - similar to angora. It can be spun and used for knitting lovely garments (i.e., gloves, hats, sweaters, coats, etc.) and many other attractive items. Since the Samoyed coat is warm and waterproof, the garments made from the hair will also be warm and waterproof. If you are interested in finding out more about the wonderful ways that you can use your Samoyed's hair, you can contact the Samoyed Club of America, Inc. or refer to books written about this subject.

### **TAKING PRECAUTIONS TO KEEP YOUR SAMOYED SAFE**

#### **Holiday Horrors**

During the excitement and confusion of most holidays, many people become preoccupied with preparations and activities associated with celebrations and have a tendency to overlook the deadly dangers that attract a curious and playful Samoyed puppy or dog. These types of occurrences can bring great sorrow at a time that should be extremely happy and joyful for all. Therefore, you should take additional precautions during holiday times such as Thanksgiving, Chanukah, Christmas, New Year's, Easter, July 4th, Labor Day, Halloween, and other celebrations to guard against such occurrences.

Oftentimes simple objects such as chocolate, plants, candies, food, bones, giftwrappings, ornaments, etc. attract the attention of your puppy or dog. All of these can be extremely dangerous and/or deadly. During the hustle and bustle of the festivities, some puppies

and dogs have even left their home, without being noticed, to explore the outside world, never to be found again and/or to meet a deadly fate. Since the holidays are a busy time, it is imperative to think about the safety and welfare of your companion by keeping it secure. Guests should be allowed to play with it in its own area. Do not allow it to be taken outside or to be overfed with greasy foods, gravies, sweets, and other goodies. Remember, dogs cannot digest chocolate the same as people can, and small amounts can be fatal to your dog.

Certain holidays offer even more dangers than others. Therefore, it would be prudent to take the following precautions during these holidays:

1. Christmas: Keep your Christmas tree and other decorations out of harm's way. Sparkling objects such as ceramic, plastic and glass bulbs that resemble a ball, icicles, tinsel, metal tops and clips for ornaments, edible ornaments with toxic colors, low hanging Christmas tree lights, sharp Christmas tree needles both from live trees and artificial ones, candies, children's toys, cotton, gift wrappings, plants (i.e., poinsettia, holly, mistletoe, etc.), candies, alcoholic beverages, etc. can seem enchanting and inviting to your dog who is unsuspecting of their dangers. Make sure to check all doggy presents to see that they are not made of plastic or have parts that can be ripped off and swallowed. Also small rawhide sticks may be dangerous. Try to maintain the dog's schedule and to provide a stable protective environment (e.g., securing your dog by using crates and/or gates). However, if you do use crates or gates, do not neglect to give your dog special attention periodically.
2. Chanukah: Gifts, wrappings, presents lights, decorations, foods, desserts, and many other holiday features can become dangerous temptations for your Sam.
3. Halloween: Glittery and shiny costumes, wigs, pointed and sharp plastic, candy, decorations, jack-o'-lanterns, etc. are all harmful and dangerous attractions for your dog. Children should be taught not to shriek at or tease the dog when they are wearing their costumes and not to share their treats with it either. Keep the puppy or dog confined during the trick-or-treat visits to your home.
4. Easter: Easter baskets, colored eggs, jelly beans, excelsior (plastic grass), candies, chocolate bunnies, decorations, etc. can be tempting and dangerous for your Samoyed. Lamb bones and gravies should not be added to your dog's food.
5. Thanksgiving: Decorations (i.e., plastic turkeys), turkey bones, gravies, chocolate turkeys, candies, etc., are equally as dangerous and deadly as those mentioned for the other holiday celebrations.

6. July 4th: Fire crackers, sparklers, fireworks, and other noisy ways that are used in celebrating this holiday are very scary and frightening to your Samoyed. A dog's hearing is very sensitive and the noise can unnerve it. Teasing a dog and/or setting off a firecracker near it can cause untold trauma and irreversible damage. Even the noise of fireworks in the distance can be emotionally upsetting to your dog. These noises have caused some dogs to jump fences and get lost, much to the heartbreak of their owners. Therefore, it is wise to keep your Samoyed inside the house where it will be safe and secured during this extremely noisy holiday.

The other holidays and celebrations all have their own source of attractions and dangers that you must evaluate in order to safeguard your Samoyed prior to the festivities that are commonly associated with them. Just remember to plan ahead and use your better judgment during all holidays and celebrations.

### **Summer Vacations**

Although summer vacations are not exactly the same as holidays, they can also be a dangerous time for your Samoyed if you do not consider the dangers that can impede a fun filled vacation with your companion. Plan and use your discretion when and if taking your dog on vacation. Never leave it in a hot car, even with the windows partially open. Use a leash when going for nature walks and keep it secured while camping. Don't allow your dog to roam freely on a beach, even if dogs are allowed. Always keep a watchful eye on your Samoyed and protect it from all unknown dangers by using your head. (Please refer to TRAVELING WITH YOUR SAMOYED).

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## **UNDERSTANDING YOUR SAMOYED**

As the proud owner of a Samoyed, you should try to understand what makes it a Samoyed.

The Samoyed's heritage includes its being an all-around dog - friend, baby-sitter, companion, herder, sleddog, and general "man-about-the-house" (if it is a male). The Samoyed is put into many situations in which it must "think for itself " Therefore do not expect a dog who will stare at you continuously, expecting you to give it instructions. For instance, if a Samoyed were at the head of a large team of dogs pulling a sled over the tundra and is confronted by a situation, it cannot holler back to you and ask what to do. It had better figure it out for itself, and sometimes very quickly.

In our domestic life-style, sometimes thinking for itself can get a Samoyed into trouble. It can be very inventive as far as entertaining itself, or when seeking personal gratification, or looking for new hobbies, etc. Sometimes those choices may not agree with your line of thinking - in which case, there may be differences of opinion. The dog

will, of course, try to enforce its opinion. Therefore as its owner, you should recognize and respect the dog's talent for thinking and use it to your advantage. Take it to different places, enroll it in training classes, take it for long walks, etc. Give your dog interesting and varied things to do and let it have room for ad-libbing. You will both benefit and you will have a smoother relationship.

As mentioned earlier, a fenced in back yard will provide your dog with an area to run and play. A Samoyed needs exercise - its heritage is filled with exercise - herding, sled-pulling, etc. Therefore, its energy level is such that it really needs to release it, and will become frustrated if it is forced to be confined and inactive. If you do not have a fenced-in area, and your dog is kept in a large outdoor kennel run during the day, take it for at least one walk per day, and provide it with toys and/or things to chew while it is confined. DO NOT leave a collar on your dog that could get caught on a fence and cause strangulation. Do not leave it unattended in any pen that is not covered or partially sheltered with a "dog house" or other shelter. Make certain the fence is tall enough since Samoyeds have been known to climb and jump over fencing. Always pre-test the confinement area before you leave your dog. DO NOT put your Samoyed on a "line-run" - it can tangle itself, be injured, or mat and wear down its fur with a collar. Remember, to safeguard your dog against loss or theft, do not leave it outside when you leave your house - bring it inside. Too many dogs are stolen while the owner is absent.

Follow the suggestions on these pages, to prevent your Samoyed from getting loose and escaping the confines of your control. Samoyeds just love to run. It has nothing to do with you personally; they just love to see what is on the other side of the horizon. Some people are insulted and think their Samoyed doesn't love them anymore. This is not true. They just have this urgent need to explore. They already know you and your territory - they need new fields of travel and they usually seize the opportunity to get it. It is extremely important to keep remembering that and to make your entrances and exits as foolproof as possible. You really would be heartbroken if your Samoyed met an unkind fate.

Digging is another favorite pastime for Samoyeds. It comes from their snowy past, the desire to be cool, and their desire to investigate. Either way, your yard can quickly resemble a minefield. Here again the best way to keep your dog occupied is to give it constructive things to do. Unless you need a septic system or other underground project dug, keep an eye on your dog when it is out in the yard. Do not ever put your Samoyed in an outside pen with a dirt floor, stones, or any type of bottom that can be dug through, or you will not find your dog in the pen when you return.

Samoyeds also find vocalizing an enjoyable and favorite pastime. They are not a quiet breed. They need the opportunity for "conversationalizing." It could be quiet wooing, louder howling, or just plain barking. If your dog is left alone, your neighbors may not appreciate its method of communicating. You will need to provide things to keep it occupied and hopefully its vocalizing will be appeased. If it is with you, it's vocalizing

should be a welcome means of communication. You can woo each other and carry on long conversations. You will find out that it just loves to talk.

Socialization is also quite important to your Samoyed, since it has always been considered a very valuable family member. It just loves to be with you and your family, and be in the center of activity. It would love to be the center of attention but will settle for being part of the group. Try to include your Samoyed in as many activities as possible, even just hanging out and watching TV together. It will even watch the kids while you are in another room. Keeping the children company is a delight to your dog since it finds kids are fun.

Remember your Samoyed is an incredibly versatile dog. It can do a lot of things that you can do, and sometimes-even better. Knowing its background, emotions, and inclinations will give you better insight in how to be a good Samoyed owner. It is better to understand than to oppose. Natural instincts can be controlled but not changed. Understanding and appropriate responses will help to enhance your relationship. Above all, love is the magic key to understanding the uniqueness of the Samoyed and its heritage.

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## **PROTECT YOUR SAMOYED FROM GETTING LOST OR STOLEN**

The best possible way to prevent your Samoyed from getting lost or stolen is to take the necessary precautions to eliminate a loss of this magnitude. Check that your dog is always secured. Your fenced in yard should be inspected regularly for breaks in the fence and holes under it. Samoyeds have often dug their way out of fenced in yards. They have also been able to jump over fences that are not high enough. Therefore, it is best to install a sturdy fence that is at least six feet high.

Remember that a Samoyed is a friendly and beautiful dog which can make it very attractive to strangers. Therefore you should make certain that the fenced in yard is not accessible to strangers. Keep a lock on the gate. Never leave your dog outside in the yard when you leave your house. "Dognappers" are everywhere.

In cooler weather you may enjoy taking your dog for a ride with you. If you must leave the dog in the car alone, make certain the doors are locked and that the windows are open only a crack for air circulation. This is important, since some dogs have been stolen from cars while others have jumped through the car window in search of their owner, only to get lost.

### **Protection Using Identification**

Identification can prevent loss or theft of your Samoyed. The first step to identify your dog is to have some form of identification on it at all times (i.e., your name and phone number written in indelible laundry marker on its nylon collar, ID tags, etc.). However tags can be lost. Another line of protection is to have your Samoyed tattooed (preferably under its rear hip) using its AKC number, your social security number, or a national or state tattoo registry number. Inquire about tattooing when speaking to your veterinarian. You can also contact local breeders or local dog clubs in your area about tattoo clinics. Another method for identifying your Samoyed is to have a "microchip implant." Your veterinarian can give you additional advice about this tamper-proof ID system. You should also keep an identification folder for your Samoyed with up-to-date information. This folder should include the following:

1. A detailed description such as the breed, sex, age, scars, injuries, color mismarking, spots on tummy, pigment breaks on its lip-line, eye rims, height, weight, age, etc. A general description of a "White husky-type dog" is not adequate.
2. Recent photos of the dog, especially those that reveal any identifying scars, marks, mismarks, etc.
3. You might even prepare a flier for distribution, if needed. The flier should contain a description of your dog, the breed, a photo (or one from a book if you do not have one), and all the other information that would be essential in order to identify your Samoyed. It should also include a place for the date, time, and area where the dog was last seen, if the dog was wearing a collar and/or identification tags, a license, tattoo numbers, etc. In addition, include two telephone numbers that can be reached by anyone who has seen or found a dog fitting your dog's description. The flier should be clearly written and not cluttered.
4. Keep a complete list of people and places to contact should your dog become lost, including your local and surrounding police agencies, dog control officers, animal shelters, pounds, veterinarians, banks, super-markets, post offices, radio stations, newspaper advertising departments, etc.

Hopefully, you will never have to use this information; however, it is best to be prepared for all eventualities.

### **WHAT TO DO IF YOUR SAMOYED IS LOST OR STOLEN**

**If your much-loved Samoyed is missing or lost**, you must act immediately. Time is precious. Therefore you must use this time to organize and not to panic. Try to enlist assistance to begin a thorough search of your surroundings and neighborhood. If your dog is roaming the area, it must be recovered before it becomes a victim of being run

over by a car. Search for strange footprints to determine if the dog was possibly stolen. Look thoroughly around playgrounds, schoolyards, and play areas, since Samoyeds are attracted to children. At the same time or right after the neighborhood has been searched, pull out the complete list of people and places to contact if your dog is lost. Start calling immediately.

The following procedures should also be acted upon without hesitation:

1. Photocopy a large number of fliers and distribute with all the information needed. If you are offering a reward, do not be specific about the amount. At the top of your flier you might simply state "A Reward Is Being Offered For Information Leading To The Return Of....."
2. Distribute the fliers throughout your neighborhood and to the people on your list. Make sure to post them everywhere as well (i.e., supermarkets, post offices, stores, libraries, veterinarians' offices, schools, banks, community bulletin boards, gas stations, community centers, yard sales, and anywhere else you can think of).
3. Put advertisements in newspapers immediately, since there is a lead time before your ad is printed.
4. Call the radio stations in your area. Many have announcements about lost pets.
5. Personally check all the shelters and pounds in your area daily. If your dog has been out, it might look different than your description (i.e., muddy, matted, bruised, etc.).
6. Ask your local milkman, the mail carrier, sanitation men, newspaper delivery people, local dog people, etc. You should also ask school children and the school bus driver to keep a watchful eye out as they travel in the school bus.
7. Check with your local dog clubs, breed clubs, and breeders since they have networks that keep them informed about lost dogs and can be very helpful. Ask them about placing a notice or ad in the newsletters of their local clubs and to inquire about your dog at their club meetings. Don't forget to contact the Samoyed Rescue representatives in your area or the Samoyed Club of America.
8. Try to create a human-interest story that can be featured in your local newspaper which will have a greater impact than an ad.
9. Inquire about the procedures that are followed in your locality about the removal of dead animals, and where they are taken in case the worst has happened.

As you search for your Samoyed, keep in mind that it may have been "dognapped" or stolen. Some have been stolen for resale, for their pelts, for research, for ransom, etc.

Others are taken to puppy mills to replace AKC dogs that have died since the "puppy-miller" needs a live one to reproduce in place of the deceased dog. The offspring are simply registered as if the first dog did not die. Your dog may also be stolen because someone else's pet has died or because they want a pet that they cannot pay for or even refuse to pay for.

If you receive a ransom demand or someone calls to collect your reward, it is extremely important that you do not meet the person alone. For your own protection, be sure someone, such as a policeman, is with you.

When your dog is found, please notify the people you contacted to help in your search so that they can stop searching also and close their files. This courtesy should not be overlooked.

Remember, don't give up your search; some Samoyeds have been found after many months, and even years.

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## **TRAVELING WITH YOUR SAMOYED**

### **By Car**

Your Samoyed loves to travel and would enjoy it more if you came along too! Of course, you will need some travel tips to make your dog's trip safer and more enjoyable. It is best to start travel-training your puppy as soon as possible. Begin with short trips to a place where it can have fun, so it will associate rides with fun.

When you take your dog for a ride, place it in a crate. You should always crate your dog for its own safety. A crate is like a safety belt and will protect your dog in case of an accident. It will not become a flying object. It is best to use a plastic "airline" crate. In case of a crash, flying glass or metal is less likely to enter that type of crate than an open wire one. In addition, a crate will keep your ingenious Sam from jumping into your lap as you're passing an 18-wheeler on a mountain road.

If you are going on a long trip, pack bedding in your dog's crate, bring its own food and water from home (or purchase bottled spring water), toys, a first aid kit (for minor cuts, rashes, bug bites, etc.), medicines and/or prescriptions, and some of its favorite treats. Be sure that your Samoyed is wearing a collar with identification and a rabies tag. Bring a current health certificate (which you can obtain from your dog's veterinarian) just in case you are asked for one. Make certain that you bring your dog's walking leash and plastic baggies or other means to pick up after your dog when it relieves itself. Feed your dog smaller meals and make frequent stops so that it can relieve itself

Check in advance for hotels/motels that accept dogs so that you won't be in for an unpleasant surprise when you arrive tired and ready to relax. Motel personnel and property managers are more likely to accept a dog that will be crated when you are not present. It will also provide insurance that your Samoyed will not dash out the door when your maid steps into your room.

When you park your car, lock it and leave the windows open just enough to allow for air circulation. However, in the summer heat, do not leave your dog unattended in a vehicle. If you must do, park in a shady area and keep checking on your dog every few minutes. You should also remember that the shade can move as the sun moves.

An overheated dog will hyperventilate (pant frantically). If that happens, cool your dog as quickly as possible. **HEAT STROKE KILLS!** Pack ice around its hind end, run cold water over the dog, wrap it in ice water-soaked towels, or hold the dog in a swimming pool or cool lake (support its head above water). Then get to a veterinarian immediately.

Some people think that they can leave their dog unsupervised in a hot car if they leave it running with the air conditioner on. **DO NOT** leave the engine running with the air conditioning on - the engine can stop and the dog will suffocate!

### **By Airplane**

Prior to taking your Samoyed on an airplane trip, it is best to make an appointment with your vet for a check-up and obtain his or her advice regarding your plans for the trip. Make sure to obtain a health certificate from your vet dated no earlier than 10 days before leaving for your trip. Most veterinarians do not recommend tranquilizers.

Make certain to make a reservation for your pet, when making the reservations for your flight. Try to book a direct flight to your destination. Book a night flight if you intend to travel in hot weather or to a warm climate.

It is necessary to take the proper preparations to make certain that your dog will have a safe flight. The following guidelines will assist you in completing your preparations:

1. Purchase a USDA- approved crate for shipping that is large enough to allow your dog to stand, sit, and change positions for a comfortable trip. These crates can be purchased at pet supply stores and airlines.
2. Write "**LIVE ANIMAL**" in large letters on the top and sides of the crate and include large bold arrows with the word "**TOP**" to indicate the upright position of the crate. Also write the **Name, Address, Telephone Number, and the Destination Point** of your dog on top of the crate.

3. Line the bottom of the crate with some type of soft bedding to absorb accidents.
4. Make certain that the crate has a water dish attached to the inside and that it is easily accessible for your dog. For trips longer than 12 hours, attach a bag containing dry food on the crate with the feeding instructions for airline personnel to follow.
5. Prior to putting your dog in the crate, make sure it has identification tags, or its ID written with indelible marker on a nylon collar. The crate should be securely closed, but not locked. In case of emergency the airline personnel may need to open the crate.

Traveling is fun and exciting when everyone is prepared and relaxed. Just be certain that you bring along enough toys or other forms of play for your Sam; otherwise, it will invent its own entertainment! In addition, you should remember that being away from home is stressful for your dog, so try to make it feel comfortable and pay extra attention to its needs.

## **NEUTERING OR SPAYING YOUR SAMOYED**

If you are planning to show your Samoyed or breed it, then you will not be able to consider neutering or spaying your dog. Showing your dog can be fun and rewarding. However, breeding your dog incurs a great responsibility. It involves an investment of time, money, and other factors that include learning about genetics, finding the right mate, stud fees (charged for males), veterinary care, possible whelping problems (Cesarean sections and other complications that can cause the loss of a female and/or the puppies), food costs for the mother and the puppies, proper care for the mother and the litter, etc. You should not breed a dog as an excuse to educate your children. Not only is it possible for the whelping to occur in the middle of the night, but the possibility of tragic situations can be emotionally traumatic for you and your children.

Therefore, if you are not going to show or breed your Samoyed, you should consider neutering or spaying. Neutering or spaying can help to decrease future health problems, prevent unplanned pregnancies, significantly reduce medical risks, increase the quality of life for your dog, etc. Un-neutered adult males often develop tumors of the reproductive tract and prostate complications that can spread to the dog's spine, bone marrow, and other organs. This can be a terribly painful and debilitating ending for your dog. Unspayed females can develop pyometra, genitourinary problems, and/or tumors. Pyometra is an infection of the female's uterus. Even if pus begins to drain and becomes noticeable, your pet's life is in grave danger. Treatment is costly and not always successful. In addition, ovarian, uterine, and mammary gland tumors are more likely to develop if your dog is not spayed. Most mammary tumors are malignant by the time they are noticed and with each succeeding heat cycle, the tumors will continue to enlarge and

eventually spread to lymph nodes and other organs until your dog is beyond help. Another advantage to spaying your female is that it avoids spotting in the house and prevents unwelcome males that might be roaming around.

Neutering and spaying will not change your dog's temperament, personality, or physical condition. In fact, it might decrease undesirable "dominance" traits that can develop in male dogs. Your dog will not become fat or lazy as a result of neutering or spaying. However, your dog's metabolic rate might be lowered and it will require less food.

Since neutering or spaying is fairly common and is considered a routine surgical procedure, it is best to discuss neutering or spaying your Samoyed with your veterinarian as soon as possible. He or she will advise you on the best time to consider performing the surgery, the cost, and any aftercare that is required. Neutering or spaying is best done when your dog is young and healthy, since there is no major discomfort or threat to your dog.

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## **GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR SHOWING YOUR SAMOYED**

Showing your Samoyed can be fun and enjoyable for you. It is exciting and gratifying to take a beautifully groomed, well-trained, dog into the show ring. Whether you choose to enter breed, obedience, or any other type of competition, you will enjoy the experience of being with and relating to your dog in this way.

Before undertaking any steps to show your dog, you might want to consult with your dog's breeder, who has an interest in the line of dogs that has been bred by him or her. Very often the breeder will be able to offer you guidance and valuable suggestions in showing your dog. In addition, it is also wise to make certain that your dog is in good health and condition, has a good temperament, and meets the measure of the breed standard. You should check with The Samoyed Club of America and The American Kennel Club for the most current information about the dog show regulations and the [standard for the breed](#).

### **Beginning**

You may wish to enroll your Samoyed puppy in a puppy kindergarten class. There it will have the opportunity to learn socialization with other puppies and other people: basic obedience, for example, to "come" when called, "sit," "be quiet," "lie down," and other owner/control related behavior.

### **Puppy Matches**

The best way to familiarize yourself with showing your puppy is to attend a puppy match, which is a "practice show," organized by a local dog club, a breed club, or breed specialty club. You can learn ring handling patterns, judging procedures, and see how your dog compares with others of its breed. Puppies can usually be entered as young as three months. However, it is best to make certain that your dog has had the proper immunizations prior to showing it.

### **Training Classes**

Should you decide to pursue showing your puppy, it is advisable to enroll in a local training class (breed or obedience) in order to become acquainted with what is expected in the show ring. You and your dog will learn the proper ring procedures and handling techniques, as well as the appropriate behavior around other dogs in the ring.

If you decide to hire a professional handler, it is still a good idea to enroll your puppy in a basic obedience class. This will assist you in raising a well-behaved dog that you will enjoy living with as well as one that others will appreciate as a "good citizen".

### **Point Shows**

Point shows are shows held for championship points or obedience degrees. When you enter your dog in a breed class, it will be judged on conformation and can earn points toward a championship. When entered in obedience classes, your dog will earn "legs" toward a degree. You can obtain detailed literature from the [American Kennel Club](#) or your local dog club with full explanations about these competitions. You can also obtain show superintendents' names and addresses, and receive assistance in the entrance procedures.

Sometimes it is helpful to first attend a show without your dog so that you can observe the particular aspects of showmanship without distraction. You can talk to breeders, exhibitors, and handlers to familiarize yourself with procedures and techniques. Also, you may wish to watch a dog show on TV, such as a local dog show or an all-champion show such as the Westminster Kennel Club show held in February of each year.

### **Preparations**

Make certain to give your dog a bath shortly before the show. Dry it thoroughly; be sure the nails are trimmed, the ears are cleaned, and the entire coat brushed and combed.

Gather your show identification ticket, crate(s), grooming table with grooming arm and securing tie, grooming supplies, show collar and lead, first aid kit, doggy treats, container of water from home (or store-bought bottled water), dog food, and some snacks for you too! Do not feed your dog before you show it; wait until the stress of ring performance is over. Remember to allow plenty of travel time in order to arrive at the show on time. Do

not leave late or you will find yourself rushed and frazzled. If you are hurried, your dog may feel that anxiety and perform poorly as a result. Exercise your dog before entering the ring and allow it to relieve itself. The better your preparations, the calmer you will be and by all means, try to stop your knees from shaking as you enter the ring.

### **Clothing**

Wear comfortable, respectful clothing and sensible shoes. A good handler is always neatly dressed and inconspicuous - the attention should be on the dog.

### **Ring Behavior**

Be punctual for the ring judging times (as listed on your show schedule). Always behave in a courteous and respectful manner when you step in the judge's ring. Listen to the judge's directions and follow them closely. Be considerate of other exhibitors, don't crowd them, run up or into them, or otherwise interfere with the showing of their dogs. You must always show respect and demonstrate good sportsmanship, whether or not you agree with the judge's opinion.

### **General Etiquette**

You are responsible for your dog at all times while you are on the show grounds. Therefore you must keep it under control. In addition, give the proper respect to others, their dogs, and their belongings as well.

Remember, your Samoyed is a beautiful, friendly, and happy companion. As it proudly stands in the ring, the silver tips of its glorious coat glistening in the light will be a credit to your care, training, and devotion. Both you and your Samoyed should present yourselves with dignity and grace when in public, since you are representatives of the breed. Since the breed is an old and respected one, known for its spirit of friendliness and good will, we must do everything to preserve it.

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## **THE SOLITARY SAMOYED**

Every Samoyed is a social critter - it loves to be with people or others of its kind. If, however, your Sam is the only dog you own, it will gladly be your best friend and companion, but it will also need some extra attention.

If you are the sole owner and spend the day away at work, try to come home some time during the day. If that is not possible, perhaps you can arrange for someone (a friend or

neighbor) to come in and visit with your Samoyed. A young puppy, especially, should not be left alone for long periods. It will need to have fresh water, exercise, a "potty" break, and lunch. Unless you have a roomy and secured indoor or outdoor kennel, your dog will be confined to a crate, and being the clean creature that it is, will not want to soil its sleeping area.

When you are gone, play a radio softly in the room so that your dog will not feel alone. Talk shows are the best. Begin getting the dog used to being alone by leaving it for short periods at a time. Do not make a production of leaving or returning. The dog needs to know that those are routine happenings and not something to create emotional extremes. During the times you are at home, let your Sam be a very important part of your life take time to play with him or her, take it for walks, visit friends, and allow it to be your friend and companion. Enroll your dog in training classes, so the two of you can learn and experience new things together. It also gives your Samoyed a chance to be around other dogs in a leaning environment. Let your dog be with you when you are just hanging-out or working around the house. You might enjoy talking to you dog, and it may even talk back. After all, Sams are talky dogs!

You will find that you have a happy, intelligent, and fun-loving friend. Sams are hams! They just love fun - they think that's what life is all about! You'll enjoy their sense of humor too!

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## **EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

Because of their heritage, Samoyeds are a very versatile breed. Therefore, they adapt extremely well to a variety of outdoor activities that can extend your relationship with them. The [Organization for the Working Samoyed](#) is dedicated to promoting the Samoyed's working abilities. If you would like additional information about working with your Samoyed and about this organization, contact The Samoyed Club of America for the name and address of the organization's current contact person. There are many activities that you can enjoy with your Samoyed, such as sledding, weight pulling, hiking, backpacking, skijoring (a form of skiing on flat terrain), herding, etc.

### **Sledding and/or Weight Pulling**

Your Samoyed should be mature and strong before attempting to harness its strength to pull a sled. You should protect the back of your young Samoyed from undue stress and injury early in life in order to allow its skeletal structure to develop properly. Once mature, Samoyed have the strength to be trained for weight pulling contests, pulling children on sleds, or participating as members of a sled team. As part of a sled team, your Samoyed can compete in spirit and mid-distance racing. Harnesses can be

purchased at dog shows, or be custom made to fit your dog's measurements by harness makers who advertise in dog magazines. Keep in mind that there is a difference between harnesses used for sledding and harnesses used for weight-pulling. Therefore, be sure to purchase the correct type and proper fitting harness for the planned activity. The harness should fit properly and be well made in order to avoid injury and breakage along the trail.

### **Hiking, Backpacking and Skijoring**

Samoyeds love to accompany their owners on a hike whether it is a short or long one, or whether it's along a river or through the woods. They enjoy being with you and love the exercise. Mature Samoyeds are often willing participants on backpacking trips, carrying their own supplies in their own backpacks. A young puppy can begin by becoming accustomed to carrying all empty pack, and then one filled lightly, increasing the contents as the puppy matures. However, please remember that many dogs have been lost during such trips due to the attraction of a wild animal or the distraction of the owner. Therefore, make certain to keep an eye on your friend at all times and/or attach a long lead to its collar. Your Samoyed can also be easily trained to enjoy Skijoring with you in the snow. Be sure to train your dog properly and outfit it with the correct harness in order to insure that this pastime will be fun and safe for both you and your dog.

### **Herding**

Samoyeds are natural herding dogs and some are more instinctive than others, taking readily to formal training. At some Samoyed "Specialty" shows, herding instinct testing is becoming an event that is being offered more frequently. Even seminars and clinics on herding are often conducted by Border Collie or Australian Shepherd trainers and their breed clubs. Actual herding trials are gaining recognition and support in many parts of the country.

Additional information about herding and working with your dog can be obtained by sending a request along with a stamped, self-addressed, envelope to any of the following:

- American Herding Breed Association, Linda Rorem, 2548 Victoria Way, Pacifica, CA 94044
- The Mid-West Herding Dog Association, 44 W. 431, Rt. 64, Maple Park, IL 60151-8552
- The North American Sheepdog Society, Rossine Kirsch, Secretary, Route 3, McLeansboro, IL 62859
- Wisconsin Working Stockdog Association, Graham Phillipson, Secretary, 3220 Paulsen Road, Harvard, IL 60033

Available Publications (events, seminars, trials):

- National Stock Dog Magazine, 321 Portland Road, Waterloo, MI 53594
- Northeastern Sheepdog Newsletter, 38 Highland Street, Hopedale, NM 01747
- Shepherd's Crook, Barbara Arine, 205 Countrywood Drive, Lompoc, CA 93436

- Southern Stockdog Journal, PO Box 736, Tallahassee, AL 36078
- Working Sheep Dog News, The Editor, WSN Ty'n-y Caeau Pwllglass, Ruthin, Clywd, North Wales LL15 2LT

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## CONCLUSION

Your Samoyed is a truly unique dog! Its rich heritage, that dates back thousands of years, has contributed to its development as a working dog that is lovable, loyal, intelligent, and an independent thinker. From their origins with the Samoyed people in Siberia, these dogs were treated kindly and were valued for their beauty, as well as their abilities. Through the centuries of their close contact and relationship with humans, the Samoyed developed a deep understanding of human nature. This heritage is still visible today, since Samoyeds reflect the versatility of their past, whether they are working as herding dogs, sled dogs, back packing, skijoring, or being your best friend and loving companion.

Due to the history of the breed, this dog has an intense need to be part of the everyday household. A Samoyed will be extremely unhappy if it is repeatedly left for long periods of time, without human companionship. Negative behavior, such as barking, chewing, defecating, etc., can be a result of neglecting your Samoyed.

As the owner of a Samoyed, you need to make a commitment of your time and energy for the proper grooming, training, attention, and loving care that your dog requires. Although it may appear that a Samoyed needs more than the average care, the love that you will receive from your Samoyed in return will far outweigh your wildest expectations. Even your friends will respond with amazement at the irresistible beauty, intelligence, and uniqueness that is a "Samoyed."

It is almost impossible to sum up an individual Samoyed, since all Samoyeds are complex social animals. People who have shared their lives with a Samoyed can agree that there is all unusual bond that exists between a Samoyed and its owner(s) that is unlike any other breed. Only through living with a Samoyed can you experience and understand the magnificent obsession a Samoyed owner develops for this unique companion.

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## **RELATED ORGANIZATIONS**

### **THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB**

51 Madison Avenue  
New York, New York 10010

### **ORGANIZATION FOR THE WORKING SAMOYED**

C/O Donna Dannen  
28221 Bonanza Drive  
Evergreen, CO 80439

### **ORTHOPEDIC FOUNDATION FOR ANIMALS**

2300 Nifong Blvd.  
Columbia, MO 65201

### **CANINE EYE REGISTRATION FOUNDATION**

South Campus Courts - Bldg. A  
Purdue University  
West Lafayette, IN. 47907

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