

The Samoyed Club  
of  
Victoria Inc.

PUPPY

HANDBOOK

REG. NO. AOO15122S

**CODE OF ETHICS OF RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP  
BY MEMBERS OF THE VICTORIAN CANINE ASSOCIATION (INC.)**

**SECTION 1**

**COMPLIANCE WITH CODE OF ETHICS**

Each member, upon signing an application for membership or renewal of membership of the V.C.A. (Inc.), and being duly elected to general membership of the V.C.A. (Inc.), shall, in addition to agreeing to be bound by the constitution, rules and regulations of the V.C.A. (Inc.), be also bound by the V.C.A. (Inc.)'s code of ethics relating to responsible dog ownership, including the keeping, welfare, breeding, selling and disposing of dogs by members to the effect of the terms and conditions set out under Section 2 hereof.

**SECTION 2**

**CODE OF ETHICS AND UNDERSTANDING**

In consideration of the Victorian Canine Association (Inc.) electing me to its general membership and approval of that renewal from time to time, I pledge to the Victorian Canine Association (Inc.) that:-

- 1 I shall ensure that at all times all dogs under my control are properly housed, fed, watered, exercised and receive proper Veterinary attention, if and when required.
- 2 I shall not allow any dogs under my control to roam at large and when away from home ensure they are kept fully leashed, or under effective control, at all times.
- 3 I shall breed only for the purpose of improving that standard of the breed, and not for the pet market or any other commercial purpose.
- 4 I shall not breed from any bitch kept by me before it is twelve months of age, and thereafter not more than once in each succeeding period of twelve months. Provided however, that should it be necessary, through extenuating circumstances, to breed from a bitch twice within twelve months, I shall rest the bitch on the third season.
- 5 I shall not permit any of my pure breed dogs to be mated to a dog of a different breed, to a cross-bred dog, or to an unregistered dog of the same breed.
- 6 I shall not sell or otherwise transfer from my care any puppy under eight weeks of age, thus allowing for vaccination to be given at six weeks of age, and the necessary ten to fourteen days for the vaccine to take effect.
- 7 I shall ensure that all persons acquiring dogs from me clearly understand their responsibility for the care and welfare of the animal, and they have the time and facilities (i.e. adequate fences, sufficient room and proper shelter, etc.) to perform their obligations.
- 8 I shall provide to all purchasers of dogs or placed by me, written details of all dietary and immunisation requirements and/or an appropriate publication relating to such requirements and responsible dog ownership.
- 9 I shall not sell any dog to commercial dog wholesalers, retail pet dealers, or directly or indirectly to allow a dog to be given as a prize or donation in a contest of any kind.
- 10 I shall not knowingly misrepresent the characteristics of the breed, nor falsely advertise, or mislead any person regarding the performance of any dog.
- 11 I shall ensure when selling or transferring a dog to another person that documents as required by V.C.A. (Inc.) Rules or Regulations, will be provided to the purchaser or transferee.

**SECTION 3**

Any member failing to observe any provisions of the Code of Ethics may be dealt with under the Rules of the Victorian Canine Association (Inc.).

## FOREWORD

In 1990, a sub-committee of The Samoyed Club Of Victoria (Inc) was formed, consisting of Neil Wadsworth, Lorraine Addison, Marjorie Steele and Fay Tucker, with assistance from Judy Bacon, David Hutson and Ann Pedersen, for the purpose of producing a PUPPY CARE BOOKLET to assist new owners of Samoyed puppies.

This edition (2013) has been updated to contain changes in procedures relative to current diseases and dietary trends. It also offers some warnings and the problems that the proposed new buyer must consider before making that final decision.

Having made that decision to own one of our beautiful breed, we hope that this publication will help you keep your dog in a manner that is a compliment to you and the breed.

In line with convention, in all cases where male gender is referred to, you can also read female.

### *DISCLAIMER*

This Puppy Booklet is offered only as a guide to assist new owners with their new puppy.

All advice contained in this booklet is intended to provide information and assistance but is not meant to be taken as medical advice – in the event of a puppy being unwell, it is up to the puppy owner to decide if professional veterinary advice is required.

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Please note the information block on rear cover!

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Congratulations, a new addition to the family!!

The SAMOYED is one of the oldest breeds known to man, being descended, without mixture, from the dog that accompanied the "Samoyede" tribesmen during their migrations in far north Europe.

Ahead of you are many years (12-15) of love, fun, affection and loyalty from what we consider the most beautiful dog in the world. The Samoyed has a real need for human association and affection, having lived so closely with nomadic peoples over many centuries. He herded the tribe's reindeer, pulled their sleds, guarded their camps from wolves and bears and the pups were even used to keep their children warm in their reindeer skin tents.

He is a true companion, always willing to please and never showing any aggression to humans.

He is patient beyond belief, especially with children, and is only truly happy when with you as part of the family.

As a guard dog he will bark. He is NOT an attack dog.

### THINK FIRST - BEFORE YOU BUY.

This appealing little bundle of fluff is going to grow into a dog that will stand between 18 - 20 inches (46 - 51 cm) for a female and 20 - 22 inches (51 - 56 cm) for a male at the shoulder, sometimes even bigger

The Samoyed is an individual, a free thinker, independent and very intelligent. He will need a lot of guidance and training during the formative months to mould his personality into the well adjusted family member you require.

This gorgeous puppy may BARK, DIG, CHEW, WANDER, CHASE THE CAT, and DIRTY IN THE HOUSE. He needs your time and patience. If you don't have sufficient of either of these, **don't buy a Samoyed.**

His coat needs attention, he needs daily exercise, proper feeding, he needs mental stimulation (being played with and shown affection). He needs an enclosed yard and a quiet warm place to sleep, but most of all he needs YOU.

Everything you put into a Samoyed he will repay one-hundred-fold.

Don't have a Samoyed if you just want a dog to keep in the yard and look pretty!

A bored dog is a naughty dog. Barking, digging, chewing and roaming are usually symptoms of boredom.

## **2. PREPARATION FOR HOMECOMING**

- 2.1 A clean, safe, fully fenced yard. Check all fences for loose palings and holes. Check your gates - make sure they have self-closers and that local children cannot open them. Place a "PLEASE SHUT THE GATE" sign for local tradesmen etc.
- 2.2 Sleeping quarters. A warm, dry, draught free place to sleep away from the children. Puppies require plenty of sleep (as do children) and need somewhere to go that is their domain.
- 2.3 Food and supplements as suggested by your breeder. Try to feed the same type of food puppy has been having especially for the first week in his new home.
- 2.4. A large safe container for drinking water. One that can not be tipped over or chewed is best. Always have fresh, clean water available both inside and outside.
- 2.5 Brush, comb and puppy lead. Before you take pup home your breeder will suggest what types are best.

## **3. PURCHASER/BREEDER RELATIONSHIP**

It is most important for you and your breeder to feel that you can communicate. You need to feel that you can ask questions about your dog and the breed (don't worry - what can seem a silly question can sometimes be a fairly important step in building your knowledge of the breed) and your breeder should be interested to follow through on his/her breeding program by seeing the result of a particular mating as the animal grows to adulthood.

### **YOUR BREEDER SHOULD PROVIDE YOU WITH THE FOLLOWING:-**

- 3.1. This puppy care booklet.
- 3.2 A five (5) generation pedigree.
- 3.3 V.C.A. (Inc.) form of registration signed by the breeder. (This form is proof of a pedigreed animal registered with the V.C.A. (Inc.) and is needed to transfer the dog into your name if so desired.) The registration form will be either blue or pink depending on whether your puppy has been entered onto the Main register or the Limited register. (Dogs on the Limited register can participate in Obedience events but may not be shown or used for breeding.)
- 3.4 Proof of immunisation and details of follow up.
- 3.5. Details of microchipping  
Microchipping is now mandatory in Victoria.
- 3.6 Worming details with a follow up program.
- 3.7 Dietary information.
- 3.8 Information on general care and demonstration of grooming.

#### **4. SPAYING/NEUTERING**

Discuss this with your breeder and/or Vet. Most breeders like to talk to their puppy owners about this and "**FORS AND AGAINSTS**" should be pointed out.

##### **4.1 SPAYING**

Spaying is the term applied to the operation in which the ovaries and uterus are removed from the female (bitch). The object of spaying is to stop the bitch from coming into season and from reproducing.

##### **4.2 CASTRATION OR DE-SEXING**

In this operation which is performed under general anaesthetic, the dog has both testicles removed, thus removing the source of sperm and the male sex hormone (testosterone).

#### **5. THE FIRST 24 HOURS**

You have just returned home with your new puppy and like most inquisitive youngsters he will want to explore his new domain. It is essential for you to have prepared a safe, secure area that is warm with a cosy sleeping area for your puppy. It is not advisable at this time to let your puppy have the run of the house as he will not be fully house trained, and it is best to keep him in an area where he can be under a watchful eye for all of the time.

Your puppy will not want to be alone, as he has had his mother and litter brothers and sisters for company, and will be a little apprehensive in his new surroundings. It is a good idea to put things in the area that will help to keep puppy occupied and gain confidence from the smell and it will help him identify you. These things can be balls, puppy toys or things that can be dragged or chewed, like a fresh marrow bone, but the items must be too big to be swallowed and must not break into small pieces.

If you wish to pick the puppy up for a cuddle, do so by placing one hand under his tummy and the other under his chest. Do not pick a puppy up by his legs or tail. Don't let the puppy play on slippery floors and do not fondle his ears as they can be damaged at this stage.

At bed time a securely wrapped hot water bottle will keep puppy warm and if the area is quiet it has been found that a ticking clock placed in the area or a radio tuned to a music station (not too loud) will help to pacify the puppy.

If the puppy cries through the night it is best to ignore him if possible, having checked to make sure the puppy is not in difficulties. If you get up on the first night to pacify him he might expect this from then on. The faster he learns that he is going to be alone through the night the sooner you will get a full nights sleep.

During this adjustment period the puppy may go off his food and may need a little coaxing.

## **6. DOMESTIC TRAINING**

### **6.1 TOILET TRAINING**

When your puppy arrives home, it may have already had some form of toilet training from the breeder.

Pups will always need to relieve themselves a short time after each meal and after waking from a sleep. If you have decided to train your puppy to go on newspaper, put the pup on the paper and offer a few words of encouragement until the task is completed and then PRAISE. Using a particular word (not too embarrassing) for this task will get the puppy to recognise the task at hand and possibly he will grow to perform the task on command.

If you prefer to train the pup to go on the grass outside, the same rules apply, take him out onto the grass and PRAISE when he does the right thing, then return him to his pen or the house.

A little time spent in the early days, even if you don't feel like it will be well worth while.

Remember, it is only a matter of showing the pup that when he does what pleases you he will receive praise and attention.

If an accident occurs, wherever it may be, NEVER rub his nose in it, this may teach him that whenever he relieves himself, he will get his nose rubbed in something unpleasant and therefore cause problems in the future. Again, a deep voiced NO or NAUGHTY BOY should suffice.

### **6.2. HOUSE TRAINING**

The earlier you start the better for you and your puppy.

Within the first few days your new pup needs to know where he can go and where he is not allowed to go, either inside or outside the house. You must start to lay down the rules very quickly and firmly.

Praise is the best method of letting the pup know when it has done the correct thing and a deeper voice will let him know when he has done something you do not approve of. If you allow the new pup to get away with things in the first few days, this will only teach him that this is what you will allow him to do all the time.

A firm "NO" teaches the pup that you are not happy with what he has just done, and as Samoyeds love to please you, they soon learn that the way to do this and get more attention is to do the things that do not bring a deep voiced "NO" from you.

It is always ideal to be at home with the new pup for the first week or a bit longer if possible. You can help him settle in and teach the house rules from the beginning.

If he is allowed indoors, but not allowed to jump up on the furniture or bed, the first time this occurs you must be firm and say NO as you place him down on the floor. If he tries it again, keep saying NO and PRAISE him when he just sits beside you, he will appreciate a pat or a scratch on the chest and soon learn that he will be rewarded by not jumping up.

NEVER smack the pup or cause him to yelp. This will only frighten him away from you.

When the pup has started to learn what can and cannot be done, praise him as often as necessary for all the right things he does. The more praise and attention he gets the more he will try to please.

Patience is a MUST when it comes to puppy training. Never take out your temper on him, walk away, and remember that the best way is a firm deep voice. You will get nowhere fast if you lose your cool.

NEVER encourage your puppy to do something that you don't want your adult dog to do, ie jump on you or the furniture, mouth your hand, chew on old shoe (dogs don't know the difference between old and new) etc.

## **7. FEEDING AND DIET**

This section will not attempt to supply a detailed diet for your puppy as there are so many varied opinions as to the suitability of products available (or home brews) that are favoured by breeders. At the end of this booklet there is a space for your breeder to specify the diet your puppy has been on and how to continue this diet in the future. The spacing and types of meals are fairly universal and should be adhered to at all times.

Just like a human baby, your pup has started out life being fed milk from his mother.

Weaning commences at about 3 weeks of age when the pup is gradually introduced to solid food.

So, by the time you take delivery of your puppy, he is quite used to "normal" food and no longer depends on Mum for milk.

Before he leaves the breeder he should have been fed 3 meals a day until 6 months old and 2 meals per day until 12 months old.

Cows milk should not be given to a puppy because the lactose in cows milk can sometimes cause diarrhoea. PUPPY MILK or PUPPY PORRIDGE that can be purchased from the supermarket should be used.

To prevent food from fouling and to encourage puppy to eat when the food is available the meal should be left for no more than 20 minutes and then taken away and maybe reserved for a later meal.

Food should be fed at room temperature - too cold and you could chill his little tummy - too hot and you will burn his mouth, tongue and cause serious damage.

Chicken necks are very good for younger puppies and chicken carcasses may be given to older puppies these should be fed RAW, never cooked.

Brisket bones are fine to feed to puppy and as he increases in size a full marrow bone can be fun to tackle. Your butcher will saw through these bones to reduce the size and this also allows puppy to get at the marrow.

Further suggestions for variety are raw carrots, pumpkin skin, greens, apples, etc. Most Samoyeds love raw fruit and vegetables:-

Not grapes, raisins, etc.

Do not leave puppy alone with his meal until you are sure that he is not going to choke on raw food.

A hard boiled egg is a good addition to the diet, given once or twice a week. Also a small can of sardines in oil can be introduced gradually once or twice a week.

At about 6 months of age he can be cut back to 2 meals per day, gradually by the time he is 12-15 months old he should only need one meal per day.

When he is on one meal per day, it is important to feed this meal at night, after any exercise, as mentioned elsewhere in this book, activity on a full tummy is not good for the digestive system, and as mentioned before, his meal, later in the day, will settle him down for his night time rest.

Commercially prepared premium dry dog food, in general, is a convenient way to make sure your dog gets a balanced diet. Most of them contain all the nutrients needed.

Some dogs need more water daily than others and Samoyeds are one of these. ALWAYS make sure your dog has fresh, clean water available. He will need this and more if he is fed dry food.

Some breeders prefer to soak dry food before feeding to allow the food to swell to its maximum - otherwise it is easy to overfeed - especially a young dog. The dog drinks the water he feels he needs and any non-soaked food will swell in his stomach, causing great discomfort if the dog has had too much. Overfeeding in this way could be a possible cause of bloat.

Some canned foods, particularly if the dog is not accustomed to it, will have a tendency to make the dog pass wind, causing embarrassment and suspicious glances about the room. Canned food may also cause loose and smelly motions - not easy to clean up.

It is important that cat food is not fed on a regular basis, it is designed for cats not dogs and their specific dietary requirements are different, although it will do no harm if he occasionally steals the food from the cat's bowl.

Samoyeds love their food and it is very easy to be conned by their appealing expression and excitement at the sight of food. Sometimes their acting will almost convince you that they haven't been fed for DAYS. DO NOT OVERFEED - overfeeding causes obesity - obesity causes bad health - bad health causes????

DO NOT FEED cooked bones, chicken bones or lamb bones as these can all splinter and possibly puncture the dog's intestines. This could be a life threatening situation.

## **7.1. DIARRHOEA**

Simple diarrhoea - bowel movement loose and normal colour. This disorder may be caused by change of diet, overeating, an emotional upset, milk, dirty utensils or many other causes. Change diet immediately to bland, low fat boiled white meat and boiled rice or pasta and plain water. If this is not effective consult your Vet as soon as possible.

DO PROVIDE CLEAN WATER AT ALL TIMES.

DO NOT GIVE COOKED BONES.

DO FEED AT ROOM TEMPERATURE.

DO OFFER SOME VARIETY.

DO OFFER RAW FRUIT AND VEGETABLES.

DO NOT FEED SWEET BISCUITS, CAKES OR CHOCOLATES - YOU ARE NOT DOING YOUR DOG A FAVOUR!

## **8. HEALTH**

**Pet Insurance is a very good investment. There are many companies offering insurance, check with your Breeder for any suggestions or investigate the different plans available.**

### **8.1 INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN DOGS**

#### **8.1.1 CANINE DISTEMPER**

This is a serious disease of dogs and ferrets characterised by fever, discharges from the nose and eye, vomiting, diarrhoea and pneumonia. In a number of dogs nervous signs are also seen, although somewhat later in the course of the disease; these may be muscle spasms or tremors, convulsions, loss of balance, circling, general irritability or progressive paralysis. In dogs the mortality rate can be high. Dogs which survive may have permanent brain damage.

#### **8.1.2. CANINE HEPATITIS**

This is a disease of dogs characterised by a loss of appetite, depression, diarrhoea often with blood, tonsillitis and acute abdominal pain, due to enlargement of the liver. The disease may be severe, with deaths occurring within 24 to 36 hours of onset, or mild, the dog showing only signs of loss of appetite and general lethargy. Corneal opacity or "blue-eye" may follow infection. Severe disease is rare in dogs over 2 years of age.

#### **8.1.3. CANINE PARVOVIRUS**

Is a disease of dogs of all ages but especially young pups. In pups death may occur without warning. A pup, healthy one evening, may be dead the next morning. In these pups, the virus attacks the heart causing myocarditis. In the older pups and dogs the virus attacks the gastro-intestinal tract causing diarrhoea often with copious amounts of blood, uncontrollable vomiting and severe abdominal pain. Mortality rates of affected dogs vary from 10% to 90%.

#### **8.1.4. KENNEL COUGH (Infectious Tracheobronchitis)**

Is a contagious disease of dogs which has more than one cause. Affected dogs have a hacking cough which usually appears after exercise and may persist for several weeks. Among the infectious agents associated with kennel cough are bacterium, Bordetella Bronchiseptica, and two viruses, canine adenovirus type 2 and canine parainfluenza virus. Treatment with antibiotics sometimes speeds recovery.

#### **8.1.5. TETANUS**

Is a rare disease of dogs and cats which results when penetrating wounds become infected with the tetanus organism. Toxin is produced in the wound and spreads to affect the nerves, resulting in increased sensitivity to noise and continuous or spastic contractions of the muscles. Exaggerated pricking of the ears and "lock jaw" are common signs. Affected animals may be unable to stand and have their heads thrown back and legs in extreme extension. Tetanus can be prevented by immunisation against the toxin.

#### **8.1.6. VACCINATION**

**PREVENTION:** Since it is difficult, if not impossible, to effectively isolate or quarantine your animal from exposure to these viral diseases, the only effective method of prevention is vaccination. Vaccines stimulate the animal's immune system

to produce antibodies against the specific viruses. The antibodies remain the blood stream for varying periods of time; it is therefore important that follow-up booster vaccinations are given throughout the animal's life.

1st VACCINATION	6 - 8 WEEKS	Distemper Hepatitis Parvovirus Kennel cough
2nd VACCINATION	12 WEEKS	Distemper Hepatitis Parvovirus Kennel cough
3rd VACCINATION	16 WEEKS	Parvovirus Kennel cough
ANNUAL BOOSTER		Distemper Hepatitis Parvovirus Kennel cough

AS PROTOCOLS CHANGE FROM TIME TO TIME – CHECK WITH YOUR VET OR BREEDER RE THE ABOVE SUGGESTIONS

Put your pup's vaccination dates on your calendar and make sure you have them done.

REMEMBER: Vaccinations do not stop diseases, but help the immune system to develop protection against certain diseases. It usually takes 10-14 days for this protection to develop. If a dog is unwell it is not advisable for it to be vaccinated. Modern vaccines are almost always totally safe, and cause no side effects apart from occasional swelling on the injection site. Consult your Vet. if you have any of the pre-mentioned symptoms.

## **8.2. INTERNAL PARASITES AND TREATMENT**

### **8.2.1 ROUND WORM:**

Young puppies from 2 weeks old commonly have large numbers of round worms, which are also capable of causing illness in humans, although they cannot develop into intestinal worms in people. Therefore pups should be treated for round worm every 2 weeks until 12 weeks of age, then monthly to 6 months. As dogs get older they become immune to round worm, although stress and pregnancy can reduce this immunity. In heavy infestations the worms may be seen in faeces and pups may have a distended stomach and smelly breath. Round worms can grow to 135mm (5") in length and as thick as a match.

### **8.2.2 HOOKWORM:**

Leech-like blood suckers approximately 12mm (half inch) long. They puncture the intestine lining and eject a substance which prevents coagulation of the blood. They cause anaemia and loss of iron. Cannot affect humans.

### **8.2.3 WHIPWORM:**

Most common in older dogs - seldom in pups under 12 weeks. They are bloodsuckers and form toxins which cause anaemia and protein depletion. They are shaped like small whips and are about as thick as a sewing thread.

#### 8.2.4 TAPEWORM:

All tapeworms require two hosts to complete their life cycle, one being the dog itself, and the other, the intermediate hosts, being fleas, sheep, cattle or pigs. In the case of animals, the eggs are transferred through their faeces. Tapeworms can grow to metres long in segments. If your dog is infected, the segments are passed with the faeces, or sometimes stick to the hair around the anus. They are small, flat segments, which move around when freshly passed, and dry out to resemble yellowish grains of rice.

#### 8.2.5

There are many different brands of tablets and syrups, so check what they control before you use them. Ask your Vet's advice and follow instructions carefully. Once again mark your calendar for when worming is due.

#### DO NOT WORM AN ILL/SICK DOG!

**DOSE:** Every 2 weeks to 3 months of age.  
Every 1 month to 6 months of age.  
Every 3 months from 6 months or if worms are evident in droppings.

#### 8.2.6 SYMPTOMS OF WORMS

Intermittent or persistent diarrhoea, with or without blood or mucus - Intermittent vomiting  
Persistent grass eating - Lack of energy - Rubbing bottom along the ground Bloated stomach  
- Anaemia (pale gums are the best indication) - Dry, dull coat, dandruffy skin - Persistently watery eyes - Loss of weight - Unexplained nervousness or irritability. These symptoms could also indicate other ailments that may be serious. It is suggested that you take your dog to the Vet for diagnosis. **REMEMBER DO NOT WORM A SICK DOG.**

#### 8.2.7 HEARTWORM

Is a parasite of the dog capable of causing liver, kidney and heart disease in some dogs. It lives in the heart and is carried by mosquitoes.

The incidence of heartworm is increasing in the Melbourne metropolitan area. Prevention is much easier, safer and cheaper than treatment. Pups may be started on preventative tablets at 2 months of age (this is recommended) and should be maintained for life.

#### ALL DOGS OVER 6 MONTHS MUST HAVE A BLOOD TEST AT THE VETS BEFORE STARTING PREVENTATIVE TABLETS.

There are four ways of prevention:-

**DAILY DOSE** - Safe, effective and cheap but must be given every day either in tablet or syrup form.

**MONTHLY HEARTGARD TABS** - More expensive, more convenient, mark your calendar for dosage days.

**ADVANTAGE DUO FOR DOGS** (see the section on FLEAS and TICKS)

**YEARLY INJECTION** - Speak to your vet about this option.

Treatment must be given year round as mosquitoes are present all year.

Annual blood testing is not needed if on a regular regime, but if heartworm treatments have not been given for a while, it is a good idea to blood test before starting again.

### **8.3. FLEAS AND TICKS**

The most common cause of skin irritations in dogs is flea bites. Some animals are allergic to flea saliva and will get a severe allergic dermatitis (sometimes called summer eczema) usually along the back and tail base. Some cases of severe dermatitis need special medications to help clear up the skin. It is also important to try to stop fleas from biting the animal.

A well planned and consistent flea control program is the only way to stop fleas biting your pet.

Fleas breed by laying eggs on their host. These eggs drop out of the hair coat and into the animal's environment where they hatch into grubs which spin cocoons. These cocoons may last for months and are stimulated to hatch by heat and movement. Adult fleas also spend some time off their host's body. It is therefore important not only to treat the animal but also its surroundings.

#### **ENVIRONMENT**

Vacuum carpets to remove flea eggs and developing fleas 2-3 times weekly!

Wash pets blankets weekly, in washing machine!

Treat house, kennels and yard with an adult flea killer weekly. There are sprays and powders available for this purpose.

#### **TICKS.**

Some ticks can cause severe illness, paralysis and even death. Your vet will tell you if you are resident in a tick area and advise you on the best preventative treatments to prevent tick infestation. You should check with your Vet prior to bringing a puppy home as to whether your area is a Paralysis tick area, and if it is you should have preventative treatment on hand to use on your new puppy as soon as you bring it home.

The paralysis tick (*Ixodes holocyclus*) is mainly found in the bush and coastal areas of Eastern Australia and can kill dogs and cats. Saliva injected when the tick feeds causes a progressive paralysis, which ultimately leads to respiratory failure and death.

In tick areas it is advisable to check your dog daily for ticks paying particular attention to the head, ears, neck and front legs.

### **8.4 TREATMENT OF THE DOG**

You should consult your vet about the best treatment for your dog as the area you live in may call for treatment against TICKS as well as FLEAS.

### **8.5 MANGE**

Bald spots, usually on the head around the eyes and mouth, caused by small parasites that live in the hair follicles. There are two types, one of which is highly contagious. Consult your Vet. (See section on Flea's and Ticks (REVOLUTION))

### **8.6 EAR MITES**

Signs are repeated scratching and head shaking, head held painful side down, dark reddish brown waxy deposit in the ear and an unpleasant smell from the ear. They are tiny pin-point sized mites. They avoid light and therefore are difficult to see. They are transmissible between animals and cause acute irritation. Treatment requires the use of a product, obtainable only from your Vet, that contains an ingredient that will kill the mites.

(See section on Flea's and Ticks (REVOLUTION))

## 8.7 POISONS

GENERAL SYMPTOMS: Intense pain in the abdomen - crying - vomiting - trembling - convulsions - foaming at the mouth - heavy breathing.

**Go directly to the Vet** - preferably trying to identify the poison first. HASTE IS PARAMOUNT!

Before your new pup comes home make sure all dangerous substances are safely out of puppy's way.

Things to beware of:-	Pesticides	Flea preparations
	Snail bait	Toadstools
	Rat poison	Rhubarb leaves
	Detergents	Carbon monoxide (car exhausts)
	Soaps	Bleaches
	Your medicines	Moth balls
	Lead	Antifreeze
	Dry cleaning fluid and many garden and house plants	
	Ant Killers	Electrical Cords
	Human Medications	Essential Oils
	Laundry Items	Certain Plants

During the Summer months, be aware of Snakes.

If your dog is bitten by a snake, get to your Vet as quickly as possible.

## 8.8 DANGEROUS OBJECTS

Small balls or toys that could be swallowed whole or in bits, if they come apart - kitchen sponges or foam rubber - marbles - sharp bones - cooked bones - corn cobbets - power leads (e.g. TV, hi-fi etc.) left switched on - needles and pins - string and wool - panty hose and stockings.

If you suspect that your puppy has swallowed a questionable object, use a strong solution of table salt and water, causing him to regurgitate the object. If this is not successful, go straight to your Vet. . Lectic Crystals can be used to induce vomiting – seek advice prior to use.

## 8.9 CLEANLINESS

DOG: Regular brushing and combing will keep him clean. A little talcum powder around the ears or on grass spots will help. Make sure fleas are kept under control.

BEDDING: Wash regularly, dry in the sun and spray with flea preparations.

YARD: Pick up droppings daily. To assist, "Poopa Scoopas" are available from your pet shop. Don't leave old bones in the yard, 2 days with a marrow bone is sufficient. After that it will begin to smell and then become brittle and indigestible. Hose where the dog urinates.

## 8.10. KENNEL OR RUN

Clean daily. Hose urine and use a disinfectant, change the type of disinfectant on a regular basis – do not use Pine. Dust with flea powder or use a flea rinse and make sure the pen is dry before putting the dog away.

### **8.11 OBESITY**

Overweight dogs generally have more physical ailments and a shorter life than those of average weight. Obesity is usually caused by the calories consumed being greater than calories used. Most Samoyeds enjoy their food eagerly looking forward to dinner. It is so easy to overfeed and under-exercise an adult dog. To evaluate your adult dog's condition check the amount of fat over the rib cage. If the ribs are easily felt your dog is either normal or thin. If you can feel a thin layer of fat between the skin and ribs, your dog is normal. He should have a waist. If the ribs are difficult to feel your dog is fat. If the ribs cannot be felt your dog is obese.

Overweight dogs are predisposed to the following:-

Heart disease including high blood pressure.

Liver disease.

Diabetes.

Heat intolerance.

Breathing difficulties.

Lower resistance to infection especially viruses.

Greater surgical and anaesthetic risks.

Joint or locomotion problems including arthritis, spinal disc problems, hip problems and ruptured ligaments.

Prevention is better than cure, correct feeding and sufficient exercise is all you need.

Consult your breeder or your Vet if you think you have a problem, remembering that all puppies should carry just a little fat.

### **8.12 ON HEAT, OESTRUS, IN SEASON**

These words all mean the same, that is approximately twice a year bitches become fertile. Their ovaries produce a crop of eggs which may be fertilised and pups conceived if she is mated at the correct time. Bitches will first come into season (or on heat) usually between 6 and 12 months of age. They come into season approximately every 6 months. The season (or heat) lasts for about 21 to 24 days, but there is a wide variation. The general rule is one week coming in (indicated by bleeding), followed by one week fertile, with vulva swollen and then one week going out. Make sure your bitch is securely enclosed, away from male dogs, during the whole of this period.

The season will manifest itself in loss of blood, swelling of the vulva and she will become extremely attractive to male dogs.

Again, talk to your breeder or Vet if you have any questions here.

### **8.13 SEXUAL MATURITY OF THE MALE**

As distinct from bitches, there is no outward sign that your dog has reached sexual maturity, other than the fact he will find "in-season" bitches extremely attractive and will try to mount them, whether his advances are welcome or not. It is at this time, if there is a bitch in season, in your neighbourhood, that he may try to get out to visit said "lady".

He may become more assertive in his attitude, particularly toward other male dogs, but basically his nature will not change. By approximately 9 months all male dogs should have two testicles fully descended into the scrotum. If this is not so check with your Vet.

## 8.14 GENETIC PROBLEMS

All breeds of dogs have some genetic problems, such as respiratory defects in short (pug) nosed dogs, eyes, joint and other problems which breeders have to monitor and keep to a minimum within the breed. The Samoyed, due to breeder diligence, has very few problems in this area. Of this type of problem Hip Dysplasia is the most serious and debilitating for the dog. This condition is caused by a malformation of the hip joint(s) and is graded medically from minor (grade 1) to major (grade 5/6) in severity.

It can show up in a young dog as a slight irregularity in the gait or, in more serious cases, as a noticeable limp. At a later stage this becomes arthritic causing severe pain and difficulty in getting up and down steps. If you have any doubt as to the soundness of your puppy, discuss your problems with your breeder and if necessary have the dog checked by a Vet (it may only be muscular, or a minor dislocation due to a tumble or a slide on a slippery floor). Due to the immaturity of young muscles and joints it is advisable not to x-ray a puppy, for dysplasia, before he is twelve months old.

## 9. GROOMING

Grooming techniques may vary from breeder to breeder depending on many factors like environment, time and the physical abilities of the groomer. This section will deal with the basics of grooming and you can adapt it to suit your own situation. There are many good books on how to groom your dog, but beware of American publications that refer to "removing whiskers and long hair from face, eyes, paws and toes to give a clean, neat appearance".

We wish to emphasise to all new owners of Samoyeds that scissors are DEFINITELY NOT part of our grooming equipment. Our Sams, from the tip of their tails to the beam of their smiles, are groomed only with brush and comb.

This brings us to the equipment needed for grooming. The basic kit is a wire brush and a steel comb. For small puppies you start with a small gentle brush and a medium to fine toothed comb. The comb can be metal or timber backed and the teeth should not scratch the scalp when tested on your own head. As the puppy grows you will require a larger stronger brush, with the bristles set in fairly firm rubber (what you pay for is what you get). You will also need a comb with a longer tooth, but retain the fine comb for around the ears, between toes and the featherings.

Accustom your puppy to a daily grooming from the start. The grooming period should be a time of pleasure to both puppy and owner, but a great deal of patience will be required at first by the owner. This can be commenced on your lap, using both brush and comb, but be careful around the ears as the tissue here is very delicate and can be permanently damaged very easily.

As the puppy grows older and the coat strengthens and deepens a systematic weekly grooming in addition to the more superficial daily brushing is necessary. At this time it is advisable to place the puppy on a bench or sturdy table (rickety tables tend to make the dog very nervous) where you can work from both sides. Be firm but gentle while introducing the puppy to this style of grooming and in some instances a second person may be required to gently restrain the puppy while you groom.

Lay your dog on his side and commencing at the tail, and feet in turn, brush in the lay of the coat by taking small amounts of hair with each brush stroke. Your other hand can hold the rest of the hair away from the brush to prevent too much hair being picked up, thus increasing the effort required. Having reached the tip of his nose, this should have removed the tangles from the outer coat as well as having picked up some of the undercoat.

Now repeat this process with the comb, making sure you get right to the skin. You may have to place one hand on the base of the part to be combed in order to lessen any painful drag on

the skin. Pay particular attention to the skirt or trousers and tail. Your dog may not like you working on these parts, but gentle persuasion and a hand held firmly against the skin will help him overcome his fears. The finer comb should then be used on the "featherings" on front legs and hocks, also on feet and between the toes and around the ears.

For added enhancement to his appearance, particularly for show purposes, the coat should be brushed out away from the body. This is done by starting at the head and brushing against the lay of the coat. Still layering with one hand, pick the coat up with the brush and brush the hair out from the body giving the brush a little flick at the end of each stroke to acquire the desired stand-offish look. Don't forget to turn him over and do the other side, then having completed the task encourage him to stand and give himself a good shake which will settle the coat beautifully in its correct position.

DON'T PANIC! All Samoyeds shed their coats, usually once a year. The time varies due to seasons (the bitch due to hers, the dog due to the weather), but it is natural and not due to some dreaded disease. Dead coat is yellowish and dull and gives the coat an unkempt appearance, while the undercoat lifts off the skin but is still held by the harsh outer coat. At this time more constant grooming is appropriate to prevent severe matting and also to allow the sun and air to get through to the new coat. With a reduced coat this is an easier time to bathe the dog allowing you to get right through to the skin.

## **9.1 BATHING**

**DO NOT BATHE A DOG UNLESS HE HAS BEEN FULLY GROOMED!**

It will probably be necessary to bath your puppy, as puppies will invariably roll in any odorous mess that he may happen on, he will also be highly surprised that you do not share his joy with the new cologne. Precautions must be taken to prevent him catching a chill, should the weather be cold, by drying him well and keeping him warm until thoroughly dry.

For adult dogs, after he has been groomed to remove all loose hair, bathe him in a special bath raised to waist height for ease of handling or in your bath, shower recess or with a hose in the back yard (warm weather only). Making sure no water gets in the dog's ears, wet him all over and then lather with a pure soap (Velvet etc.) or a good shampoo, working it right through to the skin. If in the bath, a shampoo spray attached to the tap is a good idea and leave the plug in so that the water builds up in the bath to soak his feet and hocks for easier cleaning. A towel or rubber bath mat will stop the dog from slipping. Rinse off all soap and shampoo to prevent any allergic reaction it may cause. If you intend to apply a flea rinse it should be applied at this stage.

Place a lead on the dog and get him outside as quickly as possible to allow him to have a good shake and then proceed to dry him thoroughly (particularly in winter) using towels and if available a good hair dryer or dog grooming dryer. When thoroughly dry groom him as previously explained.

## **9.2 WET TOWELLING**

For a dog that is only slightly grubby a bath is not necessary and a lot of bathing is undesirable. In this case a good towelling is all that is required.

Wring out a towel in slightly warm water and rub the coat all over, the feet and featherings may need the towel a little wetter to get them clean, then dry off with a good towel. While still damp, a baby powder can be lightly sprinkled over the coat which, when dry, should be thoroughly brushed.

## **9.3 DRY CLEANING**

By applying a little baby powder to the coat prior to grooming any excess oil and moisture is absorbed and then when groomed in the normal manner all dirt and dust is removed.

Remember to brush all the powder out as this is not the best on your dark clothes. This method is excellent when applied to oil or grease spots when your dog has been under the car or other places he shouldn't have been.

Brush out the coat from under collars or leads for a better appearance and remember GROOM BEFORE WASHING.

## **10. GENERAL CARE**

### **10.1 TEETH**

A puppy is born without teeth, but by the time he is 5 weeks old he has twenty-eight sharp little puppy or milk teeth, which seldom give trouble whilst being cut.

At about 4 months puppies begin to change teeth to permanent adult teeth (the new set consisting of 42). This changing is usually completed at about 8-9 months. During this period the mouth and gums are very sore and puppies chew to relieve the pain and help the teeth to break through. Supply suitable things to chew, e.g. LARGE raw bones, manufactured nylon bones or rawhide bones that are obtainable from pet shops etc. Beware of small rawhide chips and the remnants of larger bones, when they become small enough, that may catch in the throat when swallowed.

When the new teeth are ready to appear the milk teeth will fall out or be forced out by the new teeth. If any milk teeth are just pushed aside and do not fall out they can be extracted by you or your Vet. Dogs seldom get cavities due to the strong germ killing action of their saliva and their strong tooth enamel. Regularly check that the teeth are clean, remove any tartar build up with a scraper (the edge of a spoon is quite useful), being careful of his gums. Some people clean their dogs teeth with a brush and paste. The regular chewing of raw bones will help to keep tartar to a minimum.

### **10.2 TOE NAILS**

Dogs that get plenty of exercise on hard ground or concrete seldom need much attention to their nails. Those kept on soft ground or in the house must have their nails cut from time to time with proper nail clippers. Ask your breeder or your Vet to show you how to cut the nails at the right angles to the ground, avoiding the quick. A workman's file or coarse sandpaper block are excellent to smooth the edges.

### **10.3 EARS**

Samoyeds should carry their ears erect and, unlike drop eared dogs, seldom have trouble. Regularly check ears (possibly during grooming) for wax, discharges of any sort, grass seeds or mites. Occasionally wipe the ears with a little methylated spirit on cotton wool. Never put any foreign object in a dog's ears. Dogs have very acute hearing when young, especially to high pitched noises, but often become deaf in old age. Your Vet should check the ears at least once a year at vaccination time.

### **10.4 EYES**

Dogs do not see colour. They are near sighted, and rely on their nose more than their sight. They can recognise things at a distance by movement, not by definition.

Weeping eyes can be caused by a number of things, worms, ingrowing eyelashes, blocked tear ducts, dust, wind, pollens or illness and if persistent should be checked by your Vet. Always wipe your dog's eyes towards the ears. A salt water solution is fine for bathing eyes in the case of minor irritations. Do not allow your dog to travel in the car with his head out of the window. In old age, your dog may gradually become blind, but, because he is so familiar with his surroundings, you may find it difficult to recognise.

## **10.5 EATING GRASS**

When your dog has a digestive upset he will eat long blades of grass. These irritate the lining of the stomach and cause him to vomit to rid himself of excessive bile as evident by yellow vomitus. If he is "off colour" give him water only for a short while. Dogs recover very quickly from minor stomach upsets.

## **10.6 GRASS SEEDS**

Always check the dog's skin and ears, when grooming, as long sharp grass seeds can bury themselves in the dog's skin and, because of the way they are barbed, can work their way actually through the body of the dog. If they come in contact with major organs the dog can become very ill. Always check between each toe on front and rear feet to ensure they are free of seeds, burrs and balls of mud which can become hard and attached to the hair between the pads. Do not cut this hair as it helps protect the feet.

If you find a seed partially buried you can remove it carefully with tweezers, but if you can only see a small portion, or nothing at all, go to the Vet rather than break it into segments. You may leave the point in the body.

## **11. BASIC PUPPY TRAINING (Approximately 8-16 weeks)**

### **11.1 START AS YOU PLAN TO CONTINUE –**

Do not accept any behaviour from your new pup that would not be acceptable from an adult dog. Training should start from the moment your pup enters his new home.

Even at 8 weeks of age your puppy is highly intelligent and will quickly learn acceptable behaviour, if taught. He is the extreme egotist and will regard everything he finds as items designed purely for his amusement and pleasure. Rules must be set from day one, and carried out consistently and kindly by all the family.

Puppies (like babies) learn quickly that a summons for help or comfort is answered and if pandered to will "put on an act" to receive attention.

### **11.2 LEARNING HIS NAME –**

This will only take a day or so. Use his name every time you call him to feed him. Mention it again and again every time he is played with, noticed or petted.

### **11.3 LEARNING TO COME –**

Attract his attention using his name, then call "COME" in an excited manner and run backwards - he will follow. When he gets to you, heap praise on him telling him how good he is (even a little tit-bit occasionally). When a little older (if early training is not totally effective) this same process can be repeated, but on a lead. This is one of the most important lessons as it can, in later life, save him from cars, dog fights, etc.

### **11.4 LEARNING "OUT" –**

Every time pup is taken outside use the word "OUT". He will quickly grasp what this means. If, when you think he should know the command, he ignores you, order "OUT" once, then firmly but kindly pick him up and take him out. Once outside, praise him, even though you have taken him out.

### 11.5 LEAD TRAINING –

It is advisable to introduce your pup to the lead at this early age. All pups resent the restriction of a lead initially - but don't despair, the lead will soon become a favourite. The first few times, place the lead around his neck and allow him to move without restraint so that he becomes accustomed to its presence. Keep training short and pleasant and without any outside distractions. Lavish praise when he is trotting beside you on your left, without pulling. Give him gentle correction when he is being wayward, by a quick little tug of the lead and a stern "HEEL" command. He should never feel constant pressure on his neck as this will make him pull continually. Don't allow puppy to mouth or chew the lead. Ask your breeder to show you the technique.

### 11.6 REMOVING POSSESSIONS –

Train your puppy to allow you to remove his possessions or food without showing any aggression even when actually removing it from his mouth. This lesson is quickly learned at this early age by simply removing the objects and then praising the puppy before returning the toy or food. Never engage your dog in a game of tug of war. This only teaches your dog to think that everything he has in his mouth that you want is going to provide him with your attention and the good fun of a game.

You should teach him to give things up on command so that if at any time he picks up some undesired object you will be able to relieve him of it without any undue fuss.

### 11.7 JUMPING UP –

Dogs that jump up on their owners or, worse still, on other people are a common problem. The remedy for the latter is discipline, which means that, if you see the dog rushing towards someone, you simply call it back or give the command "DOWN". This is not always practical with the dog that jumps up on its owner, and here, as in everything else, prevention is better than cure.

In all training, right from the start, praise puppy only when it is on the ground. If, for instance, when you call it to you and it comes with a great rush and jumps up, don't scold it; push it gently until all four feet are on the ground and then praise it. The command "DOWN" can be used in association with this exercise. Soon the pup will learn that jumping up results in nothing, but, all feet on the ground gets praise. Holding the dog firmly so that all four feet are on the ground while praising him and patting him will eventually win the battle of the jumping dog.

### 11.8 TRAINING AFTER 16 WEEKS –

Now your pup has had his final vaccinations he can safely mix in the outside world. If your basic training has been successful you will have no problems continuing outside your house and yard. It is up to **YOU** how well your adult dog behaves. Now is the time to enforce or re-enforce good behaviour. Remember praise is the greatest teacher.

If you wish, this is the correct time to join an **Obedience Club**. Training is a lot of fun! You join a group of dogs and people all at your level. Obedience instructors teach **YOU** how to train your dog. They do not train your dog for you. Obedience Clubs (associated with the V.C.A. (Inc.) are very inexpensive to join and only charge a minimal fee each lesson. Even if you only attend for a few lessons you will learn the basics of training. Samoyeds **are** capable of gaining obedience titles and often compete in trials with great success. **SO DON'T GIVE UP.**

There are many books written on training, available from the Samoyed Club Library (see list in the back of this booklet) and most good book shops, e.g. David Weston's - Dog Training, The Gentler Method.

### **11.9 EXERCISE –**

DO NOT over-exercise your puppy. From the time you get him home, and up to 16 weeks, his short sessions of lead training and running around the house and back yard are sufficient exercise for his little limbs. From 16 weeks you can gradually increase from about 100 metres, making sure that your puppy does not become overtired. Increase the distance weekly until by 12 months of age your dog will be ready for normal adult exercise of 2 km. or more each day.

### **11.10 BASIC DO'S AND DON'TS**

**DO praise your dog when he is obedient.**

**DO be consistent with his training and always be kind.**

**DON'T train him when you are tired or grumpy.**

**DON'T ever lose control of your temper.**

**DON'T chase your dog to catch him - rather run away and praise him when he finds you.**

**DON'T startle or surprise your dog.**

**DON'T over-estimate his ability to understand the spoken word, tone of voice is more important than the actual word.**

**DON'T exercise or train your dog for at least an hour after his meal.**

**DO allow puppy plenty of time to sleep - this is when they grow.**

**DON'T over-exercise a puppy.**

**DON'T give an order unless you are in a position to enforce it.**

**DON'T allow your pup/dog to be a nuisance with visitors or neighbours - always keep him under control until they want to pat him - don't let him leap at them or put hair on their clothes.**

### **11.11 SHOW TRAINING –**

Puppies can be shown from 3 months of age. They need to be taught to trot on your left hand side, to stand and look alert, and to be examined by the judge. Practice looking at your pup's teeth and running your hands over his body, while making him stand still. The Samoyed Club of Victoria (Inc.) conducts training days to help new owners with correct ring procedure. See the Snow Courier for dates of these outings or ask your breeder.

## **12. PROBLEMS**

An active happy Samoyed is one whose life is spent with the people he loves. Bringing a puppy into the household requires preparation, training and consistent gentle discipline to ensure that your puppy does not become a problem adult dog. Young puppies are not unlike small children in that they need tender loving care and gentle but firm guidance.

In correcting behavioural problems, the most important things to remember are patience, persistence and consistent correction of mistakes at all times.

Correct undesirable behaviour with firmness and consistency. Reward good behaviour with verbal praise and affection. Both must be administered at the time of the act.

Problems that you may encounter as your puppy develops and becomes familiar with his or her surroundings are as follows:-

## **12.1 CHEWING**

Dogs need to chew for healthy, clean teeth, particularly young puppies when they are going through their teething stage and replacing their milk teeth with their permanent ones. This occurs at about four months of age.

Prepare for this event by supplying one or more special toys such as safe good sized nylon bones for the pup to chew on. Do not provide too many chewable things that can result in your puppy thinking that he is free to chew everything, also do not provide personal items such as old slippers for him to play with, as puppies are not able to tell the difference between your best gear or the gear that has been left on the floor just for him.

If he learns that his special toys are the only objects to chew, he is less likely to make chewing mistakes. If a puppy is left unsupervised during this chewing stage, any mistakes he makes that are not picked up can easily develop into a lasting habit. Whenever your pup starts to chew on anything that you do not wish him to chew, discipline him gently with a verbal reprimand; a clear, sharp "NO" should suffice. It must be administered whilst the pup is in the act of the inappropriate action. Firm, fair and sustained discipline at all times whilst your pup is growing up should reward you with a happy, well behaved, adult dog in later years.

Of course it is easier to instil and sustain the correct behaviour if you set boundary limits within your home and garden. Limit your puppy's play and rest areas until behavioural patterns have been set and widen the limits as good behaviour develops.

Switching off power points where cords are at floor level and seeing that cupboard doors are closed is also good insurance because puppies are naturally curious and it is far better to be safe than sorry. Do not leave food bowls down for prolonged periods of time unattended (no longer than 20 minutes). Allow just enough time for him to finish his meal, then pick up the bowl. He will learn not to play around with his meal but to finish in a reasonable time and will not be tempted to chew his empty bowl.

## **12.2 BARKING**

Excessive barking is a problem that can easily develop from a lack of discipline on your part to check any unnecessary barking right at the onset. Dogs generally become excessive barkers because they are not properly taught, as puppies, what acceptable barking is and what is not.

Dogs that are left alone for long periods become bored and frustrated and may bark at every noise and movement. This quickly becomes a habit and the behaviour is not easily modified if there is no one home to train the dog.

A bored dog is a frustrated dog. You must recognise its needs for exercise and companionship by making adequate provision for this. Your dog has to learn the type of behaviour that is expected of him and that sometimes he must be left alone.

Puppies should be trained to spend varying lengths of time alone and you should leave him for short intervals but remain within hearing distance so that you can be ready to chastise or reward as necessary. Periodic gradual training in this manner will help your pup to know what

behaviour earns your approval. Your affection and approval for each resulting good behaviour is most important to establish his security.

Remove anything that stimulates barking and if that means installing a solid fence or wall as a screen between that which causes the barking, such as the neighbour's house or the road running past your house, so be it.

Provide accurate and timely correction when your puppy barks unnecessarily. A firm "NO" and if necessary a gentle shake of the scruff or loose skin on either side of the head should be sufficient.

The puppy should never be smacked hard with your hand or anything held in the hand. Correction when necessary should be done with a firm voice and if punishment is unavoidable you can make use of a softly rolled newspaper to smack against your hand, leg or floor for noise chastisement. Never discipline your dog when you are angry.

### **12.3 DIGGING**

What do you do with a dog that digs? Most dogs like to dig. Some dogs will dig from boredom and some will dig just for the cool spot that they can unearth during a spell of hot weather. Have an area in the yard, possibly in a sheltered spot under trees or shrubs, where he is permitted to satisfy his natural instincts for a comfortable rest.

What we don't want are craters all over the back yard! This can be reduced by depositing his droppings in the bottom of the hole before you fill it in. This deters the puppy from digging in the same spot.

In a dog's formative stages of growing up, particular attention must be paid to the pup and to try to channel excess energy into some other activity. The minute a pup looks like he is going to have a little bit of a scratch of the topsoil, immediate action must be taken. Call the dog, get his attention, rattle cans filled with stones, anything to make him stop immediately.

Call him to you and reward him for coming. Make a big fuss of him when he gets to you so that if or when you catch him in the act of digging, it will need only your voice calling him to you that will make him stop. It will need all your attention during this formative growing stages so that you will be able to stop him.

It will most likely mean that you will have to keep him in an area that he cannot dig up, such as a concrete floored run and only let him out in the big yard under strict supervision. Your patience will be rewarded in the long run with a well behaved dog that does not dig.

### **12.4 DESTRUCTIVE BEHAVIOUR**

A dog will usually be well behaved but some dogs will delight in pulling clothes off the line, pulling clothes out of the basket, getting into garbage bins, pulling plants out of the garden and generally wrecking the area.

Destructive behaviour has its roots in frustration and boredom although most people think that a dog left alone destroys things out of spite. This is not so and if the proper training is carried out with the humans in the household being the leader of the pack, your dog will gladly accept its subordinate position and take comfort in the fact that he has a leader to follow.

Many dog owners fail to realise that they have created the situation for behaviour problems by not assuming the "pack leader" role and therefore the dog feels that he is the leader and can do as he wishes.

The way to stop this is through gentle obedience, preferably done before the dog has the opportunity to implant himself as boss. If the condition is already present, training calms the dog and takes him out of the dominant role.

### 13. YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

- 13.1 Register your dog with the local Council.
- 13.2 Make sure your dog wears the Council Tag as well as an identity disc with his name and your phone number - if there is room a second telephone number can be useful.
- 13.3 Transfer the Microchip registration into your name.
- 13.4 When out walking your dog always take a bag and scraper with you to collect your dog's droppings and dispose of in a suitable bin.
- 13.5 Obey park signs which may ban dogs altogether, or at certain hours, etc.
- 13.6 Control your dog on a lead when out walking.
- 13.7 Do not let your dog wander.
- 13.8 Do not let your dog bark without good reason.
- 13.9 Exercise your dog on a regular basis - you will both enjoy it.
- 13.10 Do not let your dog jump up on people.
- 13.11 Maintain his immunisation program and worm him regularly.
- 13.12 Have fresh water available both inside and out at all times.
- 13.13 Feed him on a regular basis.
- 13.14 When combing him outside don't let the fur fly to the four winds - it will finish up on someone's washing.
- 13.15 Do not overfeed your dog - it will only shorten his life.
- 13.16 Groom him on a regular basis - a clean, groomed Samoyed is something to be proud of.

**REMEMBER** - a well behaved dog is a pleasure to have around and will be well tolerated by others - BUT - his behaviour is totally dependant on the amount of effort and training you are prepared to put in.

### 14. LOST DOG

What are you going to do now?

There comes a time when, no matter how careful you are, you dog will get out of the back yard, and basically vanish. What you should do now, in the first 36 hours, is the following steps. Remember, time is of the essence.

- 14.1 Walk around the neighbourhood looking and calling his name. You may not be able to see or hear him but his hearing and sense of smell are better than yours and if he is within earshot he may hear you.
- 14.2 Knock on doors. One of the neighbours may have him.

- 14.3** Ring the council and neighbouring councils. He may have been picked up by the Ranger. Also ring the local animal shelters and the Club's rescue service.
- 14.4** Ring all the Vets in your area.
- 14.5** Place an ad. in, not only the local paper, but also one of the big morning dailies, also check the kennel ads. lost pets section, in both papers.
- 14.6** Make sure you stay at home after you place the ad. No good people ringing an empty house to tell you that they have found your dog.
- 14.7** Make some signs that you can place in the local shops and the Vets. with a photo if possible.
- 14.8** Try the talk back radio shows. Most of the announcers are pretty good people when it comes to giving a bit of help.
- 14.9** Whatever you do don't give up. Persevere and you will win.

## **15. HOLIDAYS**

At holiday time you do have a choice as to what happens to your dog.

### **15.1 BOARDING KENNELS**

Most kennels are booked out at holiday times - book in advance. Ask your breeder to recommend a kennel if you need to.

### **15.2 LEAVE YOUR DOG WITH A MINDER**

Friends, neighbours or relatives are sometimes happy to mind your dog. Ask well in advance, and make sure the place the dog will be staying at is properly fenced, with closing gates with latches, no gaps under or in fences through which a dog could escape. Make sure the dog is carrying a tag with the phone number of the minder. Leaving the dog at home and having someone come in on a regular basis to feed, water and exercise the dog is another alternative. This however could bring problems if the dog is used to having someone around. It could bark excessively or get bored and wreck the yard or garden.

### **15.3 TAKE YOUR DOG WITH YOU**

Firstly, make sure your dog is welcome where ever you are going. Friends or relatives may not be prepared to cope with a dog or young puppy. Their property may not be fenced, they may have other animals (poultry etc.) which may make this unacceptable. You are not allowed to take dogs into National Parks and not all caravan parks or motels will accept dogs.

On your holiday or at other times you will probably take your dog in the car - **IMPORTANT POINTS TO REMEMBER** - Never leave your dog in a car unattended even for a short time. In summer the temperature in a car rises rapidly and an animal will feel the effects sooner than you. Heat exhaustion and dehydration will kill a dog very quickly. Even in winter sun, the temperature can build quite high inside a car.

A dog left alone in a car may also chew anything that takes his fancy. Remember he must learn, but it is not his fault, you were the one that left him there in the first place.

A dog needs to be offered a drink of water frequently - some breeds drink water more frequently than others - Samoyeds certainly do.

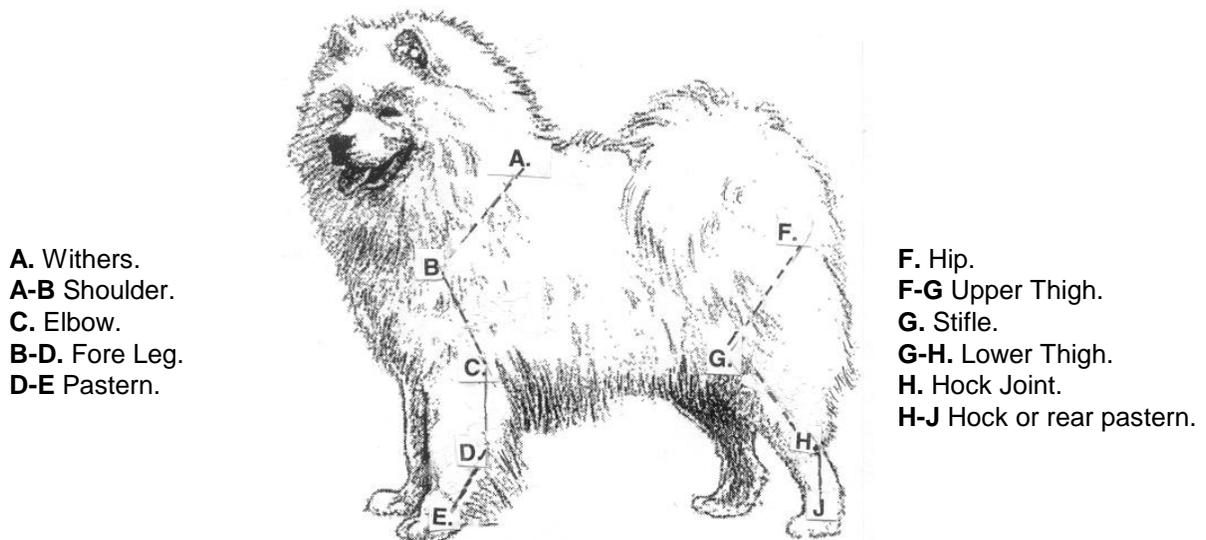
It is a good idea for the dog to travel with some sort of collar - not one that will catch on things - this makes grabbing hold of him so much easier in case of emergency. Remember when you stop for a drink or exercise that your dog's needs are at least as great as yours if not more.

#### **15.4 ITEMS TO TAKE ON HOLIDAY FOR YOUR DOG**

Water - water bowl - food (tin or dry are very convenient) - can opener - food dish - old towels - brush/comb/talc - some sort of bedding - any medication (heartworm tablets, worm tablets that may come due) - lead - collar, etc.

REMEMBER to watch for ticks if travelling further east than Lakes Entrance or north into N.S.W.

If you have any questions or concerns no matter how small, contact the Breeder of your puppy. Breeders are more than happy to help and advise and are very interested to know how the puppy is progressing. If contact cannot be made with the breeder, contact the Samoyed Club of Victoria for assistance or advice.



A. Withers.  
 A-B Shoulder.  
 C. Elbow.  
 B-D. Fore Leg.  
 D-E Pastern.

F. Hip.  
 F-G Upper Thigh.  
 G. Stifle.  
 G-H. Lower Thigh.  
 H. Hock Joint.  
 H-J Hock or rear pastern.

## 16. PRECIS OF SAMOYED STANDARD

**GENERAL APPEARANCE.** Most striking. Medium and well balanced. Strong, active and graceful. Free from coarseness but capable of great endurance, with a heavy weather resisting coat.

**CHARACTERISTICS.** Intelligent, alert, full of action. "Smiling expression."

**TEMPERAMENT.** Displays affection to all mankind. Unprovoked nervousness or aggression highly undesirable.

**HEAD & SKULL.** Head powerful, wedge-shaped, with broad flat skull. Muzzle medium length. Tapering foreface not too sharply defined. Lips black. Hair short and smooth before ears. Nose black for preference, but may be brown or flesh-coloured.

**EYES.** Almond shaped, set slanted, medium to dark brown, set well apart with alert intelligent expression. Eye rims unbroken black.

**EARS.** Thick, not too long, slightly rounded at tips. set well apart and well covered inside with hair. Fully erect in adults.

**MOUTH.** Jaws strong with a perfect, regular and complete scissor bite, i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping the lower teeth and set square to the jaws.

**NECK.** Strong, not too short and proudly arched.

**FOREQUARTERS.** Shoulders well laid, legs straight and muscular with good bone and not too short.

**BODY.** Back medium in length, broad and very muscular with exceptionally strong loin. Chest deep but not too broad, well sprung deep ribs, giving plenty of heart and lung room.

**HINDQUARTERS.** Very muscular, stifles well angulated, viewed from the rear, legs straight and parallel with well let down hocks.

**FEET.** Long, flattish, slightly spread and well feathered. Soles well cushioned with hair.

**TAIL.** Long, profusely covered, carried over the back and to the side when alert, sometimes dropped when at rest.

**GAIT/MOVEMENT.** Moves freely with strong, agile drive, showing power and elegance.

**COAT.** Body should be well covered with thick, close, soft and short undercoat, with harsh but not wiry hair growing through it forming a weather resisting out coat which should stand straight away from the body and free from curl.

**COLOUR.** Pure white, white and biscuit, cream, outer coat silver tipped.

**SIZE.** Dogs 51-56cms (20-22 ins) at withers. Bitches 46-51cms (18-20 ins) at withers. Weight in proportion to size.

NOTE: Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.

## 17. PUBLICATIONS

There are many publications available to assist in the rearing of dogs in general and particularly the Samoyed. These are readily available from book shops, stationers and pet shops. The Samoyed Club of Victoria (Inc.) has many available for loan to members from their extensive library, some of which are listed below:-

The Popular Guide to Puppy Rearing (Olwen Gwynne-Jones)  
Dogs and Their Ways (A.E. Brehm)  
Dog Care and Keeping (Will Judy)  
The Practical Guide to Dog Showing (Capt. R. Portman Graham)  
Dogs and How to Show Them (Sheldon and Lockwood)  
Dog Training by Amateurs (R. Sharpe)  
Training the Dog (Will Judy)  
Dog Care and Management (R.C.G. Hancock)  
First Aid and Nursing for Your Dog (F. Andrew Edgson & Olwen Gwynne-Jones)  
Why Does Your Dog Do That (Goran Bergman)

This group of books mainly refer to puppies, their care and training, but there are many more on history, genetics, breeding, whelping etc. the reading of which will enhance your knowledge and appreciation of our lovely breed.

The Breeding and Rearing of Dogs (R.H. Smythe)  
All About Dog Breeding For Quality and Soundness (Jean Gould)  
All About the Spitz Breeds (D. Cavill)  
All About Your Dog's Health (Geoffrey West)  
Practical Dog Breeding and Genetics (Eleanor Franklin)  
This is the Samoyed (Joan McDonald Brearley)  
Samoyeds (Joyce Reynaud)  
Samoyeds (W. Lavallin Puxley)  
The Complete Samoyed (Robert & Dolly Ward)  
The Samoyed (Samoyed Association of Great Britain)  
The Samoyed Today (Pam Taylor)

**18. NOTES AND BREEDERS SUGGESTIONS FOR YOUR PUPPY:-**  
(To be completed by the breeder.)

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- INFORMATION -

DOGS KENNEL NAME.....

DATE WHELPED.....

BREEDER.....

PHONE NUMBER.....

VICTORIAN CANINE ASSOCIATION PHONE NO.....

SAMOYED CLUB SECRETARY.....

TELEPHONE NUMBER.....

VET.....PHONE NO.....

NEAREST OBEDIENCE CLUB.....