

Home of the Pure Sled Dog

www.puresleddog.com

Interview

- 1) Name: Adelheid Weiss "Heidi"
- 2) Province, Country: Baden Württemberg, Germany
- 3) Kennel name: BEAUTIFUL OF WHITELINE
- 4) Which breed (s) of dogs you own? Samoyed
- 5) How many dogs do you have? 10 Samoyeds
- 6) For how many years have you owned dogs? 30 Years

I got 1982 my first dog a Lapplanddog and since 1984 only Samoyeds

- 7) Are you a breeder? Yes, since 1991

8) If you are a breeder, what are the qualities you want to produce in your breeding program?

To me, the request on the abilities and qualities of a Samoyed is very different from their life today to their abilities and qualities which they were used for in the former, ancient years. To me, the importance of their behaviour, spirit and some important physical and optical features is an equal criteria.

I like the Samoyed as multi-purpose (breed) dog, sled dog, **reindeer herder, therapy dog, bright and alert, who likes to stay busy with his owner and enjoys participating in different activities such as agility, obedience, mantrail, herding, weight pulling, sledding, Backpack hiking, conformation shows and more.**

We try to breed healthy dogs who are able to work until they are old without any pain. We like the beauty of the Samoyed but without any exaggeration, a dog with a harmonious anatomy right in the middle of it all (bone strong and stability - but not to big in size and height, the originally type, not the "bear- or wolf-type").

Flexible for jumps and turns, with well proportions and able to pull and run long distances. In coat we prefer quality instead of quantity, the weather resisting texture.

The Samoyed should be flexible in mind and intelligence, with a very good mentality and character.

9) Who are/were your primary foundation dogs?

Bero von der Diamantenschlucht

Beauty Angie vom Polarzwinger

Kriskella`s Champagne Kisses

Kriskella`s Cheyenne of Whiteline

10) Of all the dogs you've had, describe the one you love or loved the most and why.

Kriskella`s Champagne Kisses. He was multi-purpose in all. He always loved to be close - to be in my reach, I didn't have to teach him a lot, he understand it on a natural way, just needed a nice command. He has had a very good character and mentality, was always pending on us and adaptable, so he worked as multi-purpose dog for children and other people as well.

11) Is there a specific dog, a particular mentor, a special experience, a special event that significantly shaped your image of what you wanted to do with your dogs in terms of activities, goals, training methods, breeding or anything else that is important to you in working with dogs?

I saw one at a show around 1985 maybe. It was an USA Import male dog and I felt in love with that type of a Samoyed.

His name was Wolf River Pyry. He was very different from the type I've seen before at any shows in Germany. After that, I had a look in a Samoyed-book and found the description from Brenda Abbott about their mentality, the character and the multi purpose characteristic of the breed. I started to write to Brenda Abbott. And I was lucky to get my Dog *Kisses* from her as well as his half brother Damon. I was a kind of an autodidact and especially with Kisses on my side I learnt a lot about training and handling the dogs. I could'n ask other Samoyed-owner or breeder for advices, because no one did multi-purposed training with their dogs. The most opinion of the Samoyed breeders I got to know was that a Samoyeds shouldn't run by themselves, otherwise they wouldn't work on a sled anymore. For many years we were the only Samoyed sled dog team in Germany for Tours with that attitude. We did sledding in longer distances, on so called "obstacle runs" (runs where you have to pass certain barricades or do slalom etc.) and longer tours with the sledge as well with a wheeled trainings vehicle.

Over all the years, we used our Samoyeds to do dogsledding as well as on Tournaments like obedience, agility etc. So they stayed multi purposal in what you could do with them.

I still would love to go to a dog's place to do some Agilty or obstacle runs, obedience etc. , but after my knee problems I am physically not able to do that anymore.

But at least a few offsprings from our dogs are still doing it, as well as other interesting working fields just like Rescue Dog Teamwork or they are Therapy Dogs for mental sick or depressed people and even a few join the Dog Dance sport .

As I started to breed, the puppies were different in certain points from the first 3 Samoyeds I have bought from 3 different German breeders and I was reflecting about the reasons. Our Samoyeds lived and worked with us close together and the puppies were born into this big family.

12) What are your primary working activities with your dogs?

On dog places or clubs – Tournament Dog sport (Turnierhundesport) alone or as team (free obstacle-runs with 8 different obstacles, slalom-runs and free subordination, team-tests (similar to agility and obedience). Cross country race over 2 and 5 kilometers.

Pulling: Pulka, Trainingcars, sledges.

Many distance tours, distance- and long races, not so much sprint races. Always with all of our Samoyeds all mixed up with different ages together in smaller or bigger teams.

13) Is your team made up of one breed, or do you run other breeds with them? What are they?

We only have Samoyeds and they run by themselves in a team and our Samoyeds run together with Samoyeds of our friends, or our Samoyeds together with different Sleddog-breeds (Greenland dog, Alaska Malamute, Siberian Husky and Alaskan Husky).

We train them by ourselves or give them to other teams who drive Tours as well or train with us.

14) If you have experience with more than one breed of sled dog, can you compare the breeds in terms of the particular strengths and weaknesses of each? Do you find one breed or another works better or differently under different conditions?

It is quite the same situation we have, while we mix our team with Samoyed of different ages.

You have to find a speed on your tours, which is okay for all of them.

It's always a seeking the balance between the very young dogs who have to learn not to overstrain themselves and the older dogs who cannot pull so much but who must be able to run the speed of the whole team without problems.

We are lucky to have the chance to train and drive longer distances. Other breeds which we mix up with our Samoyeds have to have quite the same strength or weakness as they do to keep the harmony or balance among the team. If you have a young dog team or a team which is much quicker or slower it is not a good idea to mix them. As we started to do dog sledding our Samoyeds used to be a little bit slower, now the average speed has raised.

We are lucky that we are able to train in summer, so our Samoyeds are trained all year round. As far as we can tell, the difference between a Siberian Husky- and Alaska Malamute Team is, that they are not trained or not as much trained during summertime.

So our Samoyeds are much better in speed and condition when the season starts. But the other Teams will be very quick back their condition and especially the Siberian Husky runs with more speed as our dogs can do in only three months after the season started.

Siberian Huskies run in higher speed especially downhill and on straight ways. Up the hill, our Samoyeds can pull and the run very good. Both races are selected and bred for different work.

So I don't like to change it, because in my opinion the Samoyed will not look like the original type anymore and maybe it would change their character as well?

15) Describe your ideal working dog with reference to both physical and mental attributes of your breed (s). What are the most important qualities a sled dog must possess?

The Samoyed should be able to run and pull without any problems over longer distances.

The pace should be a regular, quick trot.

The Samoyed should be able to pace himself especially if they must run longer distances and he should have the ability to assert himself. Samoyeds are sometimes headstrong (pighead) dogs, they need a little bit obstinacy to do their job and he needs to have the feeling he can act independently, but on the other hand he should respond to a call and act under order, must be mental flexible, balanced with ability to adapt himself.

The Samoyed should be a dog which will find the way in Snowstorm, maybe after a triggered avalanche, on small mountain ways, not the shortcut on slalom ways downward and under higher snow, give not up in higher snow, passing water parts (melt ice lake, body of flowing water) and on mountains (steep up and downhill). He should have no aggressive behaviour, should be fearless (not afraid) so that I can drive alongside and/or pass other teams, and the dog should be able to run in a team with other dogs who are not from his pack.

16) Do you have a special training objective? For example, are you training your team for a wilderness expedition, a specific race or series of races, or for sled dogs tours? Please describe any particular event, activity or special work that you are preparing your dogs for.

We train for dog sled tours and we prefer longer distances in the mountains.

17) Can you describe in detail your training program?

We train with medium weight and let them run in higher speed on flat territory and shorter distances especially in hot times of the year. If we plan to go on longer distances, we let them run with slower speed and with more weight. We start with medium weight and extend that to maximum weight in the cold times of the year.

In the mountains we like that they pull steep up hill and that they are not allowed to run with full speed downhill.

We help (pedal or run alongside the team) only if the speed extremely falls down and before they sled would stop totally. So they will run mostly constantly later on an average speed even over the whole distance

We still watch out for our older and younger Samoyeds not to overstrain them, and so we are more than happy to say, that all our Samoyeds were able to run over longer distances and in higher territory even in their older ages.

18) What do you do to keep your dogs in condition in the off-season?

We realized that Samoyeds will loose their condition quicker than other sled dog races and that we needed more time to recover them to their old fitness of the last season. Especially for the long distance Tours in the mountain areas, where they need a very good and strong physical fitness.

We are lucky to live close to the woods and in average mountain area.

We use to drive to other countries and over there we train with other mushers, so that our dogs will have a certain variety of paths they can run on as well as contact to other situations and dogs.

At summertime, we train early in the morning with low weight. We often stop along the way and water them, we stay in the lower parts of the forest, where there is an almost equal path with less steep hills and we let them run in the speed they prefer.

19) Do you race your team? What types of races do you compete in: sprint, mid-distance or long-distance? Would you describe some of your racing experiences?

Yes we do.

My husband Harry and myself work with 3 to 8 dog-teams in sprint, mid-distance and long-distance and I drove them on obstacle runs as well.

On the *Nordiska Samojedmästerskap 2005* our Samoyeds ran very good on the first day, but we didn't know that the start on the next day was one hour later. So we were too early at the start point - ready to start. While waiting the hour for the final go, our Samoyeds who were ready to run lost almost all of their energy and fun and so we had a hard time to start them off.

Because of the one hour difference, the path was frozen, and our dogs couldn't eat the snow anymore, so we realized that we have to have anything with us to water our dogs for future races. There we although saw, that we really had a very good leader bitch. She was able to find the path very quick on first day in an area, which Harry didn't where to go. She knew, that it was the right way. On the second day there were some deep holes in the snow from the musher boots, and as our leader dog stepped into them, she reduced the speed automatically.

To them, the trail wasn't secure enough, and we rather prefer if the leader reacts like this, than continue to run in full speed.

In the same year, Harry drove a race in Langtaufers Südtirol (Italian) the Reschenpass.

All of a sudden snowslides came down, he couldn't see anything, the path broke, but the team found it and ran on the very small last piece of the path on the slope.

An Italian lady stood close to me at the finish line and she told me that only she waited to see the Samoyed team. I asked her, if she didn't see Samoyed before in her life. She answered that she sees Samoyed teams every year, but none of them ever drove the longer distance races up in the mountains.

In 2006 Harry drove his hardest Long-distance race with 6 Samoyeds. The dogs had to pull the very heavy sledge with the equipment (tent, dogfood, stake-out, clothing...)

26,2 Kilometre with a height difference between 856 m to 2105 m and then back to 2000 m height, after a bivouac night, 19,9 Kilometre back to an 842 m, altitude difference 1558 m / 507 m. He realized that it is a lot easier to use a stomach-belt with a leash fastened on the sledge, so that the hands are free and the back is straight as the dogs pull the sledge by themselves. Some of the mushers used a ski-stick, which can help them on the extreme parts of the path as well.

The stomach-belt with a leash fastened on the sledge helped Harry in another situation a few years later as he broke into very deep snow. The snow almost reached his chest and he was only able to grab the frame of the sledge with one hand. He commanded his Samoyeds to pull hard and so they pulled him out of the snow.

In 2008 Harry drove the 3 day long WSA Sleddog World Championship in Sweden.

At this race we had 4 problems:

We didn't know that the dogs needed to have enough time to acclimate.

We decided to do a training distance part, but this was just a 3/4 section of the 52 Kilometre long race-way. Our Samoyeds don't like to run the same paths every day, they just need some kind of changes, but at this race they had to run the same route five times in a row and so they lost their fun and will to go. As a result they ran slower as usual.

We had bitches in full heat, who stayed on stake out, and so our 2 male dogs didn't like to run anymore because of the good smell of the ladies perhaps waiting for them on the stake out.

The next problem was a "messy" situation on the start line and misunderstandings with the Start officials. Teams who had to start didn't start on the right time. So they had to wait, and Harry had to start off, but his English wasn't so good, and so he didn't understand what they were telling him what to do. In this confusion the leg of one bitch was twisted around the main line. Harry ordered to take this bitch out of the team, because Harry couldn't see the problem. He thought this bitch didn't like to run.

Then we heard that this bitch couldn't join the team on the next day. Harry had to drive with two dogs less in the team for two of the three days. We realized, that in a case of a problem with the team, as musher it is better to go and check your dogs by yourself. It's better to start later and maybe lose some time, but with the chance to start with all of your dogs.

One day later the Polar Distance race in Sweden started. Harry intended to join the 160 Kilometre run.

Now our bitches were back in the team and the Samoyeds were better acclimated and in shape. At this time we were lucky to train the dogs to pull the sledge alone, because in that

year they had a lot of snow and some rain made the snow very soft and mushy. In those situations, a musher cannot help his dogs, must stay on the heavy sledge with the common equipment (tent, food, stake-out, clothing...), for the bivouac, otherwise he would be stuck into the deep snow. The heavy weight dogs have the same problems and this makes it very difficult to them. As Harry drove in higher areas he and his team suddenly came in a snowstorm. Harry couldn't see the path marks -he had the same problem at night - and so he was very lucky to have a very good 10 years old leader bitch in his team, who found the way under the snow, in storm and darkness.

Harry quickly came to the Check-point, took his tent and wanted to sleep a little bit. At other races he takes the dogs into the tent and sleeps with them together.

This time he wanted to leave them outside of the tent for the first time, but because they were not used to it, they started to bark when a team arrived or passed by their rest area.

So Harry couldn't sleep. From that point on, Harry knew that it is better to take them with him into the tent.

The next problem Harry was facing: the alarm-clock. Somehow it was broken and didn't alert Harry when it was time to get up. So Harry slept in. From now on, he will use an alarm clock with a double alarm to have the chance to have at least one alarm going off. On the way back all went fine and he came to the next check point. On the finish line we got to know, that he should be soon coming over a frozen lake. So, Friends and me were waiting and looked over the lake to catch a glimpse of the race, but nobody was in sight. We became more and more nervous and nobody knew where Harry and his team were.

He had to take another way as the musher before him, because there was already too much water on the lake and it looked very dangerous. Harry came to different snowmobile trails, perhaps he felt asleep as well. But his old leading bitch found a way through and Harry saw the path's marks again which he started to follow again. A few moments later there was no lake any more and there only was a way going uphill. He turned and drove back to the check point. They showed him the right way, but the dogs like didn't like to run anymore. Harry gave them his sandwich and they started to run again through the water over the lake and we are all happy to have them all back healthy. As a result of that experience, we learned that it is better to drive back, the marks along the way are sometimes difficult to read and understand and that the dogs sometimes prefer to go the way where other dogs have been gone before. They just follow their marks and smells other dogs run as long as it is not an old track or a ski doo track.

Situations I will I never forget as I drove the obstacle run matches:

A young musher greets me year after year as we meet each other on musher-meetings after the long distance races where he and Harry are starting. I became nosey and asked him why he keeps on greeting me. He answer that he and his team always drives some Kilometres behind me and that he could see what we (me and my team) are doing on the obstacles. He said that he was impressed to see us work and that the dogs are doing such a good job and being so compliant that he was sure if I would give them the command of "doing a somersault" that they would be capable to do that.

Good thing, he didn't see me in a year later on another run. I had to go first with my Samoyed-team after a match-break. The new fallen snow covered the tracks and in the fog I

couldn't see the few directions of the path. I only knew vaguely where to go. Under the snow I could see some snowmobile tracks and gave my team the command "*follow-up*" and "*cross the divide*" so long as possible to reach an obstacle. It was a slalom part through fir loops which laid down on a snow mantle, so it was hard to see. The old leader heard what I said and turned to the start point for the slalom, but behind him very young dogs kept running and tried to pull the older one a little bit from the right way, so I gave the command to turn, as I came back after a perfect curve, but very close from the right point to start the slalom, my dogs saw a snowmobile trail, happy that they found this way and they ran and pulled so hard so that they could reach this trail. I gave up for the first in all these years, let them go and run, and gave way for a following team to pass by. This was the only obstacle I didn't do correct or missed. My dogs may have had the feeling that I didn't know where I had to go. Today I think they still might feel my unsettledness.

Another situation:

Once, we had two same obstacles side by side, the dogs had to go through, but the sledge couldn't follow the same way because the hole of the obstacle was too small. So me, as the musher, had to secure the dogs, tighten the sledge and bring the obstacles to the dogs. I couldn't see the dogs on the other side, and the musher who staid in front of the other obstacle had to send his dogs through his obstacle. His dogs didn't run the straight way, they ran to my Samoyeds and some jumped over them, and some didn't. So they were standing higgledy-piggledy. You couldn't hear anything, no humming noise or growl. We had to laugh about this situation and quickly separated them without any problems.

This critical situation was maybe so easy to solve because we basicly train and drive on Tours with other sleddog teams, so no dog in our team is aggressiv, nervous or feels anoid by other dogs.

One time we had a funny situation as well. It was not a situation from a run, but so funny I have to mention it. It happen on a longer tour with Samoyed teams from different countries. One trainingscar-wheel lost it's air and so we took two teams together. We do that quite often but for the first time we didn't notice that we took two males side by side. The dogs didn't run as usual, than we saw that two dogs were runing head to head but both looking to different directions, one took his ear next to the other dog's head extremly downwards. Than we notice that we took boys together who never run before side by side. It was their way to run, they weren't aggressiv or nervous but definitely they felt uncomfortable. We stoped and changed their position and after that all was fine and they got off in full speed as usual.

20) When you are selecting the puppies you will keep for yourselves from a litter you have bred, what are the most important qualities you look for?

We don't look certain or special qualities of the breed

We choose the parents, try to breed only with the best Samoyeds. It happens that I buy a special Samoyed for my breeding plans, but it ends up that I do not breed with it or I only breed one litter. Of course, this is might be a very expensive way, because we import some Samoyeds as well over all this years we've been breeding. But I am very convinced that this is the right way to do it.

So we don't have not just one Puppy in a litter with the quality we are looking for. Almost all of our puppies are just like how we want them to be with the same quality, regarding to breeding goals.

Most of the time we fall in love with one puppy pretty soon after they were born, and they is nothing we can do about it. It just happens on a natural way.

A main point of interest of our breeding program is the importance of environmental influences to the puppies as we try to give as many positive impulses as possible while we bring them up.

We don't breed and select especially for sled dog - or either show characteristics. **We never do that!** We honestly talk about this fact. On our Homepage we give a detailed description of our goals and our belief in what we breed and are selecting for. So people who are interested in getting a puppy from our kennel or who like to use a male for mating will be informed about it. If they like to get a very good dog especially for sledding or the show/exhibitions they have to choose another breeder who breeds and selects into this directions. We would like to avoid that they will be distressed or disappointed later one, if the dogs from our kennel or their offspring don't develop to perfect sleddogs or showdogs.

21) At what age do you begin training puppies? What distances do you cover with them?

We don't especially train them for the sledding work. Every puppy we train and support individual and not together with other dogs in different ways. To us it is important to train them in a rural and and an urban environment. So they can learn different commands. If they have to go on a leash, or are on a free running basis. We boost the exigencies slowly so to avoid to demand them excessive - mental and physical. It is the same with the running distances: Increasing it slowly. It is better to wait a little bit longer with longer tours, jumping or pulling. So we receive and prepare healthy and active Samoyeds for their future life, who like to work even in their older ages.

22) What training methods do you use for a yearling puppy's first experiences at work?

We train the apprentice very elaborate. We do jogging or bike runs, perhaps with a 10 month old one. At the beginning without the goal that they have to pull until they are approximately 11 months old. Than we let them pull more and more, train sometimes with the pulka. They first join the team who did some running before so that they can follow and see what to do from them very good. Then, we enhance distances and speed, going more and more from the flat territory to higher territory. We start with medium weight and go to a maximum weight.

23) What do you look for when selecting potential leaders?

We don't look for such things, because our best pulling Samoyed bitch didn't like to pull at first time – not as we were jogging neither in front of a bike. Some dogs who don't like to be leaders in the first 2-3 years became running leaders and did that with fun. They are so many changes among them in their development – in my opinion - you never can tell who will be a perfect leader. We bought a puppy especially from a Sleddogmusher who breed especially for

this, but later one this didn't like to pull or run and Samoyed from "Show-lines" breeders and they developed later on to the very good runners and had fun to pull.

24) What kind of training do you give your leaders? Do they learn by following an experienced leader, or do you have other training strategies designed specifically for potential leaders?

No, we train all puppies and young dogs in a same way. So, all of them will have the same abilities and chances. And we don't let them run in the same position all the time. We change positions, because the leader position is a big effort and especially if you often go on longer distances, it is good for them to stay flexible and rest sometimes in another – less exhausting position. One year we got into a very bad situation as we lost our best leaders and we didn't have appropriate replacement among our team. But anyway, Harry drove most of the races. Later on, they became not such good leaders as the ones we lost, but the dogs learn to make a good job

25) Tell us some of your best moments on the trail.

It's always a very satisfying moment, when we finish a distance or long distance run with all of our Samoyeds (we always go with dogs of all different ages). It makes us happy, if they stay healthy and happy and are able to start on the next day for the next long run. If they have to pass a stream, wallowing in the snow dog after dog, reaching the shore on a common way and after all of that, if they won't become sick in the cold wintertime and later on.

Same situation as they have to stay bivouacing in ice and rainy weather, as well as run in wet and stormy conditions for long hours.

It is always amazing to see, how they find out, which way they have to go. Even if you - as the musher - can hardly see anything.

One time, our major leash of the sledge broke and our four young Samoyed went off running ahead, but they turned and came back, realizing that something was missing.

Another time I saw my wheel-bitch pulling the sledge very hard away from a bing trunk along the way almost by herself, because of 2 young inexperienced dogs from another kennel in front of her, who didn't know what to do. Only thing she needed was my command to do so. It was a very big team, I couldn't see the leading dog or the other dogs, only the two and the wheelers because we are in a wood on a slalom path and the slalom was around the trunks.

Harry remarkable situations were as his team pulled him and the heavy sledge out of the deep snow, where he was stuck in extreme, stormy weather.

26) Tell us about some of your worst moments in the trail.

We both had some mishaps as mushers over all these years, but we were lucky it didn't result any dangerous situations or injuries and no dog was affected after a mishap in injuries or problems.

A bad moment is always, when other dogs of other teams are attacking and bite our dogs without any reason. Some dogs are used to attack other teams, it's just in their behaviour, which is sad. Because of those attacks some of our Samoyeds don't like to pass some other

teams anymore, which makes it necessary to us, to switch the leading dog more often. That could complicate the race for our team.

27) Can you describe some of the injuries you have had to deal with, including treatment?

If one of our Samoyeds doesn't run as usual we check their back and articulation by a dog-physical-therapist. Our Samoyeds have to run and pull over high distances in training, on tours and races and so we want them to be as fit as possible and without having any pain. We never ever had a problem with veterinarian checks of our dogs before they have to start on the big races, didn't have to take one dog out of the team yet. If the dogs are older, we sometimes give them more time to rest or drive with different teams on the tours. One team mixed up with very old and very young dogs and than we drive a part of the trail together and the mixed team returns back earlier.

Our Veterinary only sees our Samoyeds for obligated inoculations once a year. He makes a check up with them, before they got their inoculation. He didn't find anything negative yet.

28) Crabbing, line chewing, tangling, other bad habits? What troublesome behaviours have you encountered and what did you do to correct these behaviours?

One of our Bitches tends to bite into the leash – even into the main leash - because she is impatient. When she does it, she kind of pulls all the other dogs backwards.

Unfortunately, other dogs of the team are duplicating that misbehaviour. Therefore, we put her in front of the sled and into the Team as the last one to be placed. Or we pull up the main leash above their heads, but that is only possible, while you have two persons taking care of the run preparations.

We couldn't find another solution to that problem yet, besides to be careful and watch them not doing it, and if they do it, to forbid it.

29) Foot-pad care: What measures do you take to ensure the health of your dogs' feet and to avoid foot-pad injury?

When we start working with our young dogs, we sometimes have minor problems with that, because some of our paths are in very bad conditions and different to run on. Later on they feet become better and better and we don't have any problems with them and they are able to run on all terrain, maybe a result of getting used to bad conditions? At wintertime we have to cut the hair in and around the paws a little bit. Sometimes we use cream with oil to protect them. We very rarely use booties, only if it is very icy and on freeze-raining days.

30) Hydration, feeding, snacking: How do you meet your dogs nutritional needs during training and also during the summer?

We give them a mix out of 3/4 dry food and the rest is short boiled, fresh meat. We feed different fish, chicken and beef. In summertime on a normal energy needed basis, than we increase the mix in colder times more and more for higher energy needs. Only if they have to run day after day we give them only high-energy-food.

One hour before we train or leave to races, we give them something to drink, with a whiff of canned-dog-food or a little bit of short boiled fresh meat. At the runs and the breaks during the runs, they only will get water to drink. Right after the races they'll get a sugar-dextrose in their water. That's about it.

For a few years we gave them fish-oil or tested on some special supplement because we thought it 'll be helpful to them or upgrades their performance, but we saw no difference, so we decided not to use such things in future anymore.

But we are not those kind of mushers, who like to see their dogs as very good and quick running sport-dogs, otherwise we would have to change our attitude and we had to feed them special supplement food or even change our food.

We only feed very good, high performance food and once in the week we give a supplement to calm down the joints of the dogs.

I just read about dog food, if you **only** feed dry food you have to add a supplement with L-Carnitin and Taurin for a healthy dog-heart. If you give fresh meat instead, you don't have to give a supplement.

31) What do you think about the purebred sled dogs you see today? How do you envision your breed(s) as sled dogs in the future?

On the big races (Europe- and World champion matches) we saw more and more purebred Malamutes who look like Husky's and Husky's who looked like Alaskan-Husky's.

The Samoyed must be weather resisting in coat, has to have good feet, good angulations, good bones and a neck-length and in his head-anatomy, so that he can exist and work in the climate of today as prevailed in the country of their origin.

No extreme changes to make them run faster, no extreme changes to have "beauty dogs with pretty faces".

In my opinion, in Germany and in some european counties around us, we have a lot of needless, quarreling and wrong disclosure talks among Samoyed-friends - musher and breeders - about how the samoyed has to look like or how he has to be like, or even what he has to deal with or is only made for.

Thinking of the future it would make me happy, if we could be more friendly to each other and don't battle in breeding programs and how someone has to work with them, because we need the different dogs, a variety of a samoyed, to aid this unique race characteristics.

And it is necessary that you do have breeding-clubs and sleddog-clubs supporting the breeders and mushers, to conserve the original characteristics of the purebred sled dogs races.

32) What advice would you offer to novices who are just beginning to become involved in dog-sledding?

On races you can find different people and you can look for minded mushers. Perhaps they will give you hints and advices for your personal training, feed, the best sledges and equipment.

Or you look to find a group of people who drive with their Sled-dogs only for fun and like to be together with like-minded people. Than you can see it is the right sport for you and your dog(s). Together you can go to the training, can join tours and races.