

Don Duncan's Seaview Samoyeds team: Norman Vaughan Serum Run 2007



"It was a brutal run from Elim to White Mountain. They did it. Everybody's healthy, the dogs are healthy."

"Samoyeds with heavy coats has just been remarkable. All the other dogs are jacketed up. Probably about 8 of the Alaskan huskies ended up with some form of frostbite. A number of the males had their penises frostbitten. The Samoyeds are just fine in their fur coats. That's been a real...Most...well everybody's real impressed with how durable they are in being able to sustain themselves in this kind of weather, -40's, -50's in the winds."

(From Don's trail blog)

Samoyed

“SAM-uh-yehd”



- the medium multipurpose dog -

***Interpreting the Canadian Samoyed
Standard***

A faint, stylized watermark of a Samoyed dog's head is centered in the background. The dog has a thick, white coat and a friendly expression. Overlaid on this is a large, semi-transparent red maple leaf, which is a common symbol for Canada. The text is centered over the dog's face.

Breed History

Setting the Context

- The Samoyed is one of 14 “ancient” breeds of domestic dogs and one of the “natural” breeds
 - It is the product even today of natural selection for survival in a specific environment rather than cross- or selective breeding to get specific characteristics
- The breed originated with the nomadic hunter-gatherer Samoyede people who inhabited parts of Siberia above the Arctic circle as long ago as 5-400 BC
- The historic isolation of the region led to genetic isolation of the dogs, who remain unchanged in many ways from the ancestral type



<http://www.nationmaster.com/encyclopedia/Samoyedic-languages>

<http://www.trekearth.com/gallery/Europe/Sweden/photo276798.htm>



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Caribou_moss.jpg



- Early in their history, the Samoyede people relied on migrating Reindeer for food, shelter and clothing
- They followed the Reindeer as the herds moved across the tundra and forest lands in search of their food – the lichen known as Reindeer moss
- Their dogs travelled with them, serving a variety of purposes

- Generations of selective breeding of Reindeer brought about their domestication, and the Samoyede people, particularly those in the south, became herdsman
 - They still had to move the herds so the animals could find their slow-growing food
 - During these migrations, the Reindeer were put into service to haul tents and other equipment, and the dogs helped guard and drive the herds

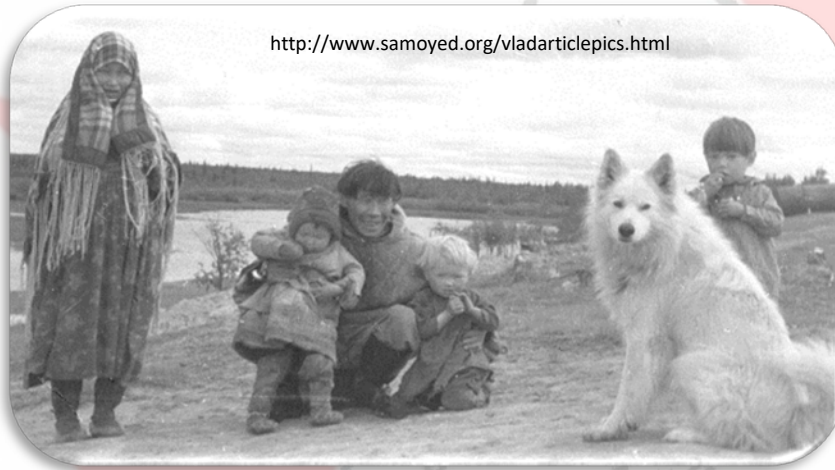


<http://www.samoyed.org/vladarticlepics.html>
Photo from 1962

- The Samoyede people adopted a variety of lifestyles, and their dogs diversified along with them
 - Some, living in the northeast tundra regions, further invested in the Reindeer economy
 - Their larger leggier dogs were selected for herding rather than just driving the Reindeer
 - Some, in the northwest coastal regions, also specialized in herding
 - Their dogs were much shorter in the leg than those in the east, but also very strong
 - Some in the interior Ob River region, at the southern edge of the tundra, became more settled in their lifestyle, making a living from fishing and hunting
 - Their white medium-sized dogs were selected to haul sledges and help with the hunt



http://encarta.msn.com/media_461526333/Reindeer.html



- The Samoyede people became known to the outside world for their white dogs
- The tough and hardy dogs were valued for their hunting, guarding and hauling skills, although they also (probably the poorer specimens) contributed as items of food and clothing!
- The high value placed on the dogs was demonstrated by the fact that the dogs shared lodgings with the people, and were trusted even with the very young
 - The source of the intelligent, people-oriented disposition characteristic of the breed and the expression “3 dog night” ??

- The Samoyed dog came to the attention of Russian nobility following the commencement of Russian exploration of Siberia in the 17th century



Czar Alexander III and family in 1887 with the prince's family pet, Kamtschatka
(From Ward, Ward, Ward-Fanning 1998)

- They were so admired by the Czars that they were granted royal status and were protected from outsiders, continuing protection of the genetic line
- They were also used by tax collectors to pull their sleds in Siberia!

- Many of the breed were lost during the Russian revolution and as a result of the changing lifestyles of the Samoyede people, but fortunately some survived and became the foundation of our modern Samoyeds, thanks largely to their roles in polar explorations and their attractiveness to the British and their royalty



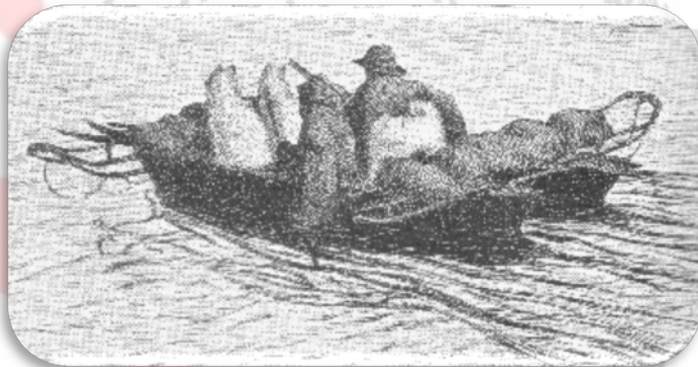
The age of exploration:

- The biomechanically efficient Samoyed, with its pronounced heat-retaining, weatherproof double coat, deep set almond eyes, “snowshoe” feet, loosely curved tail, friendliness, intelligence and determined personality made it ideal as a polar expedition dog
- After careful research, Dr. Fridtjof Nansen arranged the purchase of Samoyeds from the Ob Samoyede people in 1892 for use in his 1893 attempt on the North Pole
 - He chose these mostly white *Bjelkier* dogs as better draught dogs over those from other regions, many of which tended to be of mixed colour



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fridtjof_Nansen

- Of all the dogs beginning the trek, none returned
- The attempt on the pole failed, but Nansen got further than anyone had before
- The death of the dogs was in part due to a lack of understanding of their needs
 - Tail bobbing led to death from pneumonia
 - Trimming coats left them to freeze
- In spite of this, Nansen gave glowing reports of the performance of his dogs, making the breed the dog of choice for future explorers
- Fortunately, Nansen did not take all his dogs on the expedition
 - Those left behind survived and bred, leaving progeny to be used by other explorers



Nansen, Johansen and the last dogs



Nansen's last dog, "Kaifas"



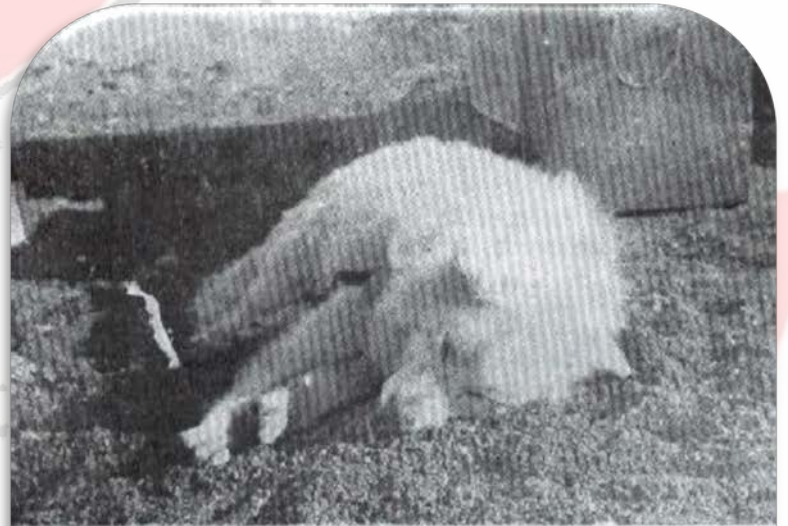
- Among them:
 - Roald Amundsen of Norway
 - Won the race to the South Pole in 1911 with teams of mostly Greenland dogs
 - Legend has it though that a Samoyed (Etah) was in lead and the first non-native animal to reach the pole
 - On return, some of the surviving dogs were given to other explorers and others taken to England
 - Captain Robert Scott, who lost the race, and whose Samoyeds died *en route* because their tails had been bobbed
 - Carsten Borchgrevink, who left Antarctic Buck in Australia following his expedition to the Antarctic





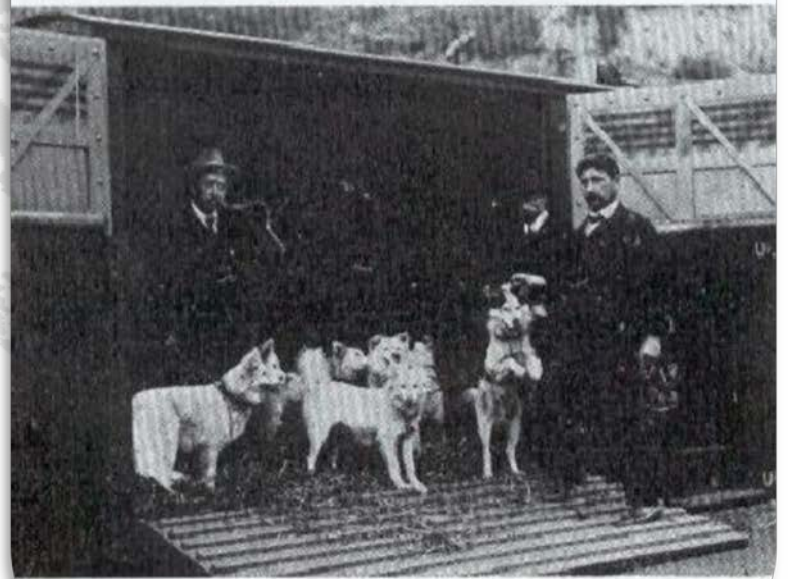
And Ernest Shackleton – who made his final dash to the pole with men pulling the sleds. His dogs had died because their tails had been bobbed.

His diary noted that he found the pole covered with paw prints from Amundsen's dogs.



"Terror". From Shackleton's Expedition, 1907-09.

<http://www.thesamoyedclubinc.orconhosting.net.nz/i6/i6-5r.htm>



Shackleton's Expedition, 1907-09.

- Sifting through the stories associated with the history of the Samoyed leaves as many questions as answers, but there is no question that our modern Samoyed descended from the offspring of the surviving dogs used by these and other polar explorers, as well as from the few dogs acquired directly from Russia by Ernest Kilburn-Scott
- Antarctic Buck
 - Obtained by Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Kilburn-Scott from the Sydney zoo where he was caged as an exhibit between tigers



Borchgrevink and dogs
on an ice ledge in the
Antarctic



Antarctic Buck



Scott with Polar Light,
circa 1912

- In 1889 the timber merchant/scientist Kilburn-Scott travelled to northern Russia
 - He brought back the dog "Sabarka" as a present for his wife
 - Probably named for the Russian city of the same name, and he came from well east of Nansen's dogs
 - Sabarka was brown, with touches of white on his chest, feet and tail
- In 1893 a crew member of a timber freighter brought a cream bitch from Siberia to London and sold her to Kilburn-Scott
 - He named her "Whitey Petchora", probably for the Russian river which flows by the ancestral home of the breed



WHITEY PETCHORA.

- She was bred to Sabarka
 - The puppies were mixed, showing white, brown and black colouration
- Musti, a white dog, was imported from Russia and bred to Whitey Petchora
 - The litter had white as the dominant colour, marking the beginning of the pure white dogs in England, and included Nansen, pictured below
- Others dogs were imported in the 1890s, and with the expedition dogs made up the approximately 20 dogs that were the foundation of the Samoyed today



- The original English standard stated "all colours permissible; white preferred"
 - Records indicate that black and brown colouring disappeared quite quickly – except for those one or two lucky black hairs somewhere on their bodies
- These British dogs carried a gene pool which quickly produced a reasonably consistent breed




The Canadian Samoyed



"Lovely white Russian (Samoyed) sledge dog pups, like small polar bears, most gentle and affectionate. Splendid coats and tails. Very rare. Parents imported."

1891 newspaper ad, placed by Ernest Kilburn-Scott

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- Note that in the following slides, points in *italics* are comments about the standard
 - Words in **bold** are emphases placed for the purpose of the PowerPoint presentation.
 - They are not bolded in the Standard

Origin and purpose:

- One of the oldest domesticated breeds of dogs, the Samoyed was bred and developed by the nomadic Samoyed tribes in Northeast Siberia, north of the Arctic Circle.
 - *Rather than being bred for a specific purpose, they were bred and are noted for their versatility as a sled, herding, guard and companion dog.*
- They made a tremendous contribution to the Arctic and Antarctic expeditions as a strong and dependable sled dog.
 - *They were used by the Samoyed people as a sled and draught animal as well as to guard and drive reindeer herds from one feeding ground to another.*
- Their importance to the Samoyed people, who depended largely upon their dogs for survival, caused them to be regarded as members of the family and companions, as well as tough, sturdy work animals, which contributed to the unique Samoyed disposition of today.

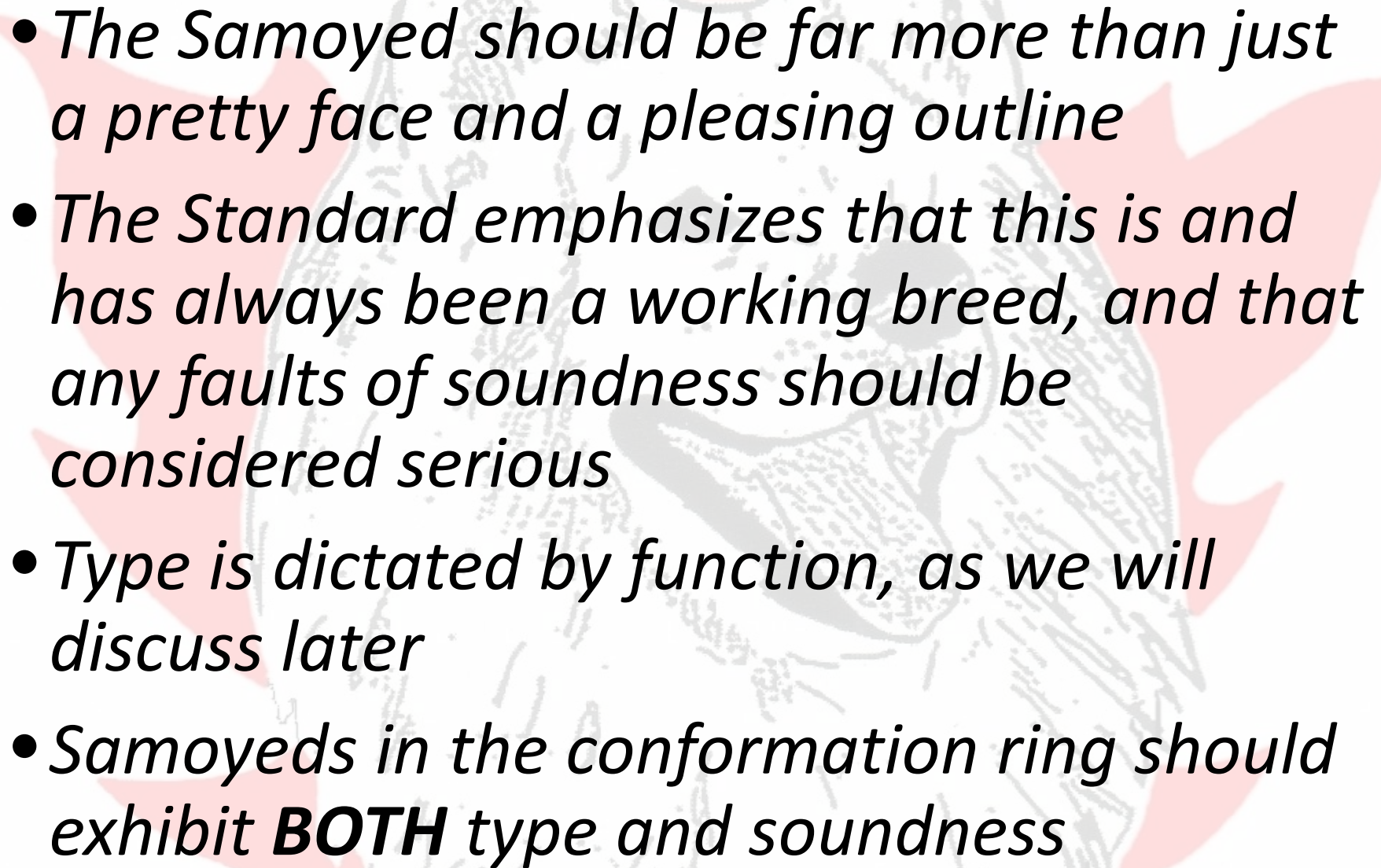


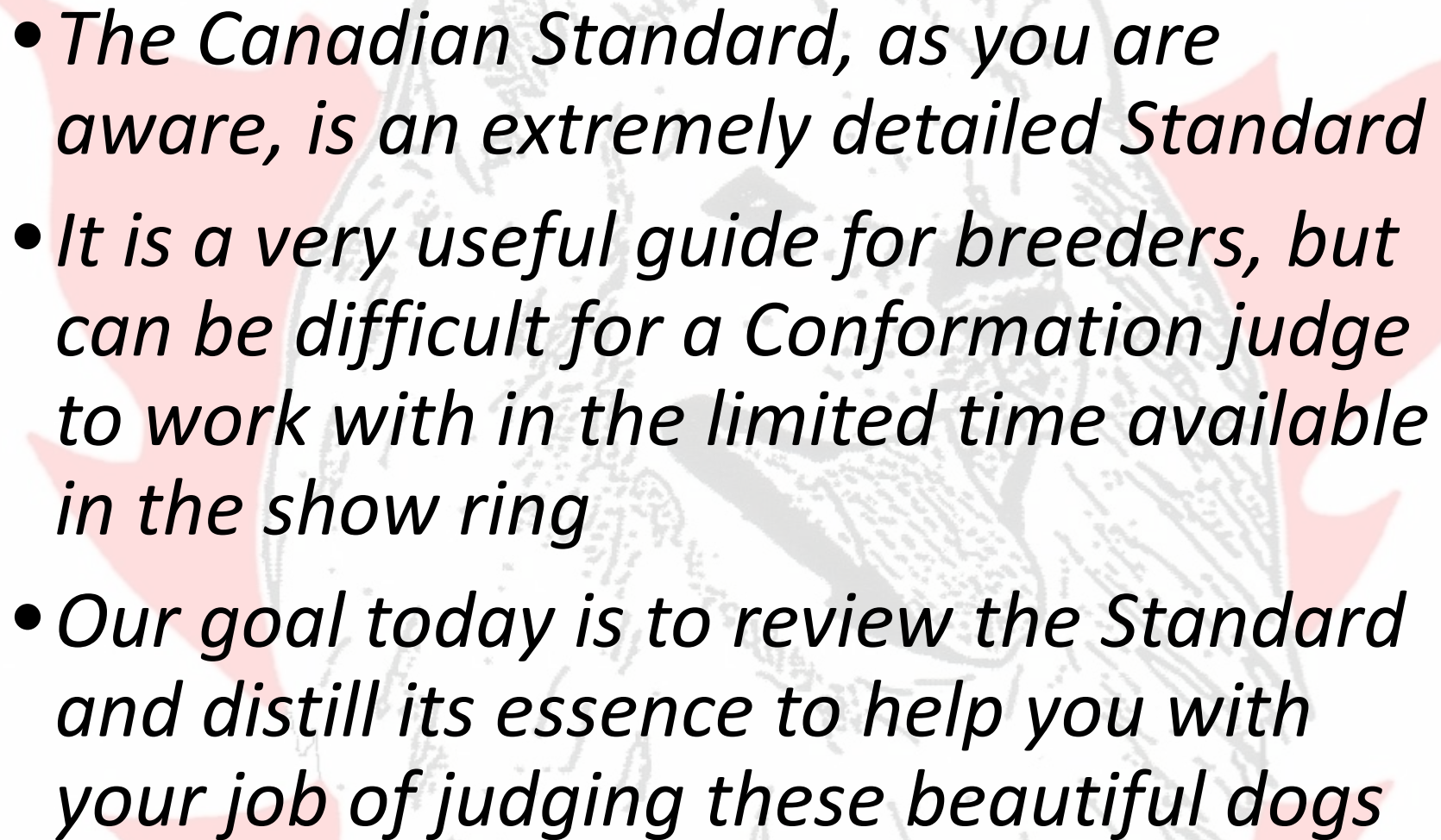
GENERAL APPEARANCE

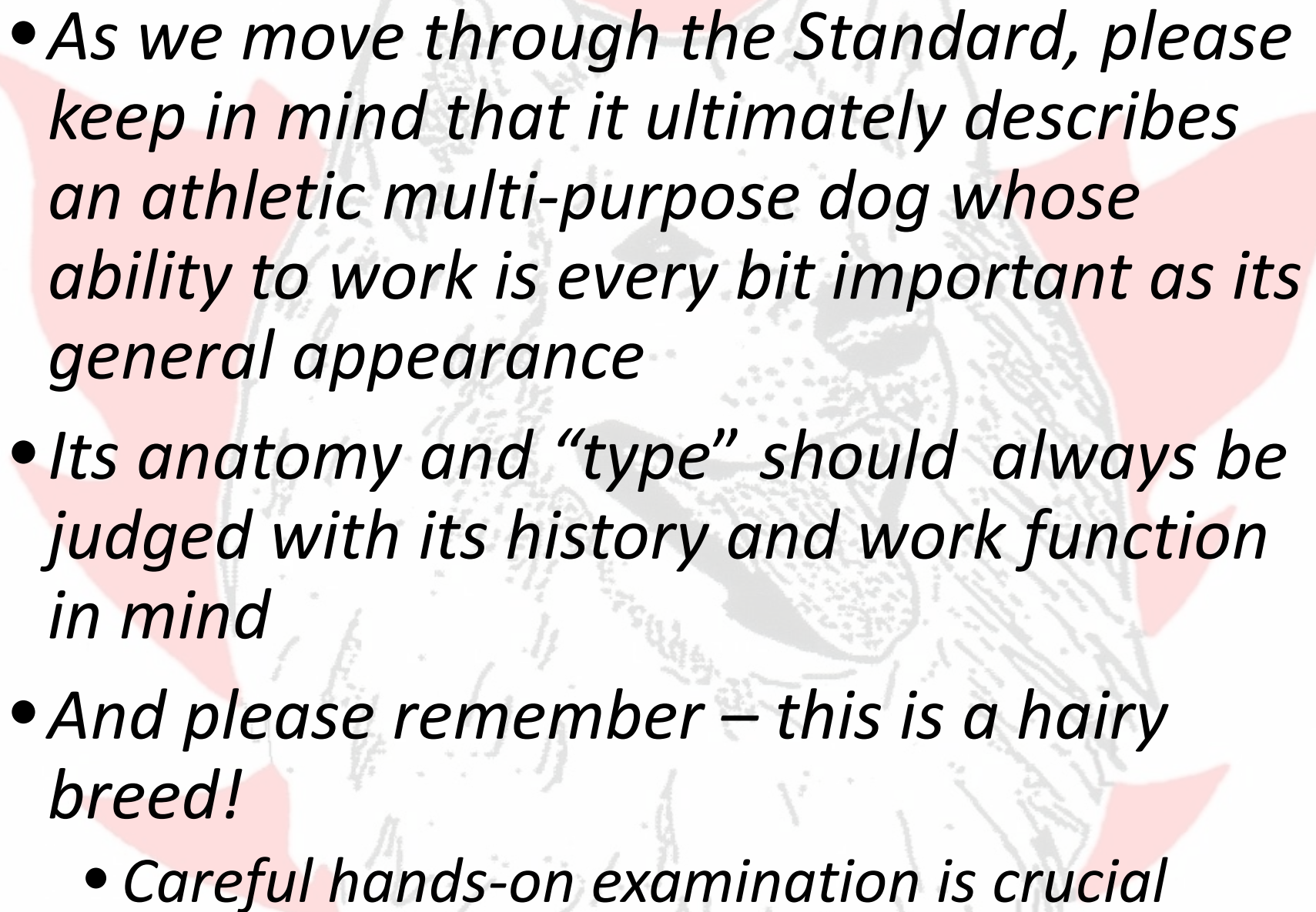
“The Samoyed, being essentially a **working dog**, should present a picture of beauty, alertness and strength, with agility, dignity and grace. As their work lies in the cold climate, their coat should be heavy and weather resistant, and of good quality rather than quantity. The male carries more of a "ruff" than the female. They should not be long in the back as a weak back would make them practically useless for their legitimate work, but at the same time a close-coupled body would also place them at a great disadvantage as a draught dog. Breeders should aim for the **happy medium**, a body not long but muscular, allowing liberty, with a deep chest and well-sprung ribs, strong arched neck, straight front and especially strong loins. Males should be masculine in appearance and deportment without unwarranted aggressiveness; bitches feminine without weakness of structure or apparent softness of temperament. Bitches may be slightly longer in back than males. They should both give the **appearance of being capable of great endurance but be free from coarseness**. Because of the depth of chest required, the legs should be moderately long. Hindquarters should be particularly well developed, stifles well bent and any suggestion of unsound stifles or cow hocks severely penalized. **General appearance should include movement and general conformation indicating balance and good substance.**”

- *In essence, this introduction to the standard sums things up completely, and in some ways better than the detailed parts of the standard*



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- *The Samoyed should be far more than just a pretty face and a pleasing outline*
 - *The Standard emphasizes that this is and has always been a working breed, and that any faults of soundness should be considered serious*
 - *Type is dictated by function, as we will discuss later*
 - *Samoyeds in the conformation ring should exhibit **BOTH** type and soundness*

- 
- *The Canadian Standard, as you are aware, is an extremely detailed Standard*
 - *It is a very useful guide for breeders, but can be difficult for a Conformation judge to work with in the limited time available in the show ring*
 - *Our goal today is to review the Standard and distill its essence to help you with your job of judging these beautiful dogs*

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- *As we move through the Standard, please keep in mind that it ultimately describes an athletic multi-purpose dog whose ability to work is every bit important as its general appearance*
 - *Its anatomy and “type” should always be judged with its history and work function in mind*
 - *And please remember – this is a hairy breed!*
 - *Careful hands-on examination is crucial*

- *This structure is fairly easy to see!*



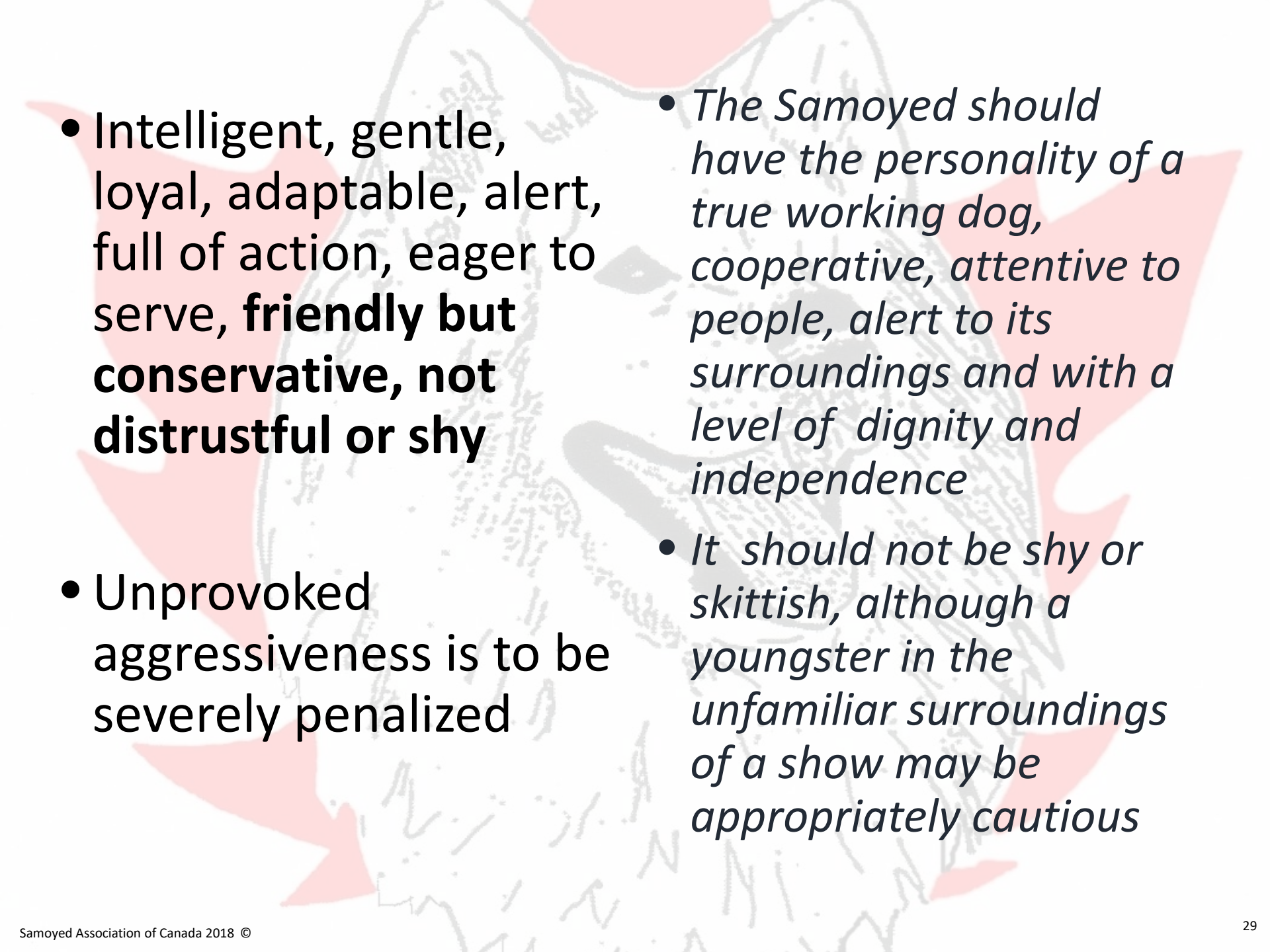
- *This isn't!*



- *And mature males are even more difficult!*



TEMPERAMENT



- Intelligent, gentle, loyal, adaptable, alert, full of action, eager to serve, **friendly but conservative, not distrustful or shy**

- Unprovoked aggressiveness is to be severely penalized

- *The Samoyed should have the personality of a true working dog, cooperative, attentive to people, alert to its surroundings and with a level of dignity and independence*
- *It should not be shy or skittish, although a youngster in the unfamiliar surroundings of a show may be appropriately cautious*



SIZE – IT DOES MATTER

• Height

- Dogs: 53 to 60 cm (21 to 23.5 inches) at the withers
- Bitches: 48 to 55 cm (19 to 21.5 inches) at the withers
- An oversized or undersized Samoyed is to be penalized according to the extent of the deviation

• Weight

- In proportion to size

- *“Balance of proportion” is more important than size alone, but size should be appropriate to the historical function of the breed*
- *When judging Group, note that the Samoyed should be approximately the same height as the Siberian Husky, Portuguese Water Dog or Karelian Bear Dog, with bitches typically about 2" smaller than dogs*
- *The Samoyed is the “medium” dog, not too heavy and not too light!*

Substance:

- The bone is **heavier than would be expected in a dog this size** but not so massive as to prevent the speed and agility most desirable in a Samoyed
- In all builds, the bone should be in proportion to body size
- **The Samoyed should never be so heavy as to appear clumsy nor so light as to appear racy**
- *Light enough to walk on snow, strong enough to pull a sledge, agile enough to drive a Reindeer*



COAT AND COLOUR

• Coat type and texture

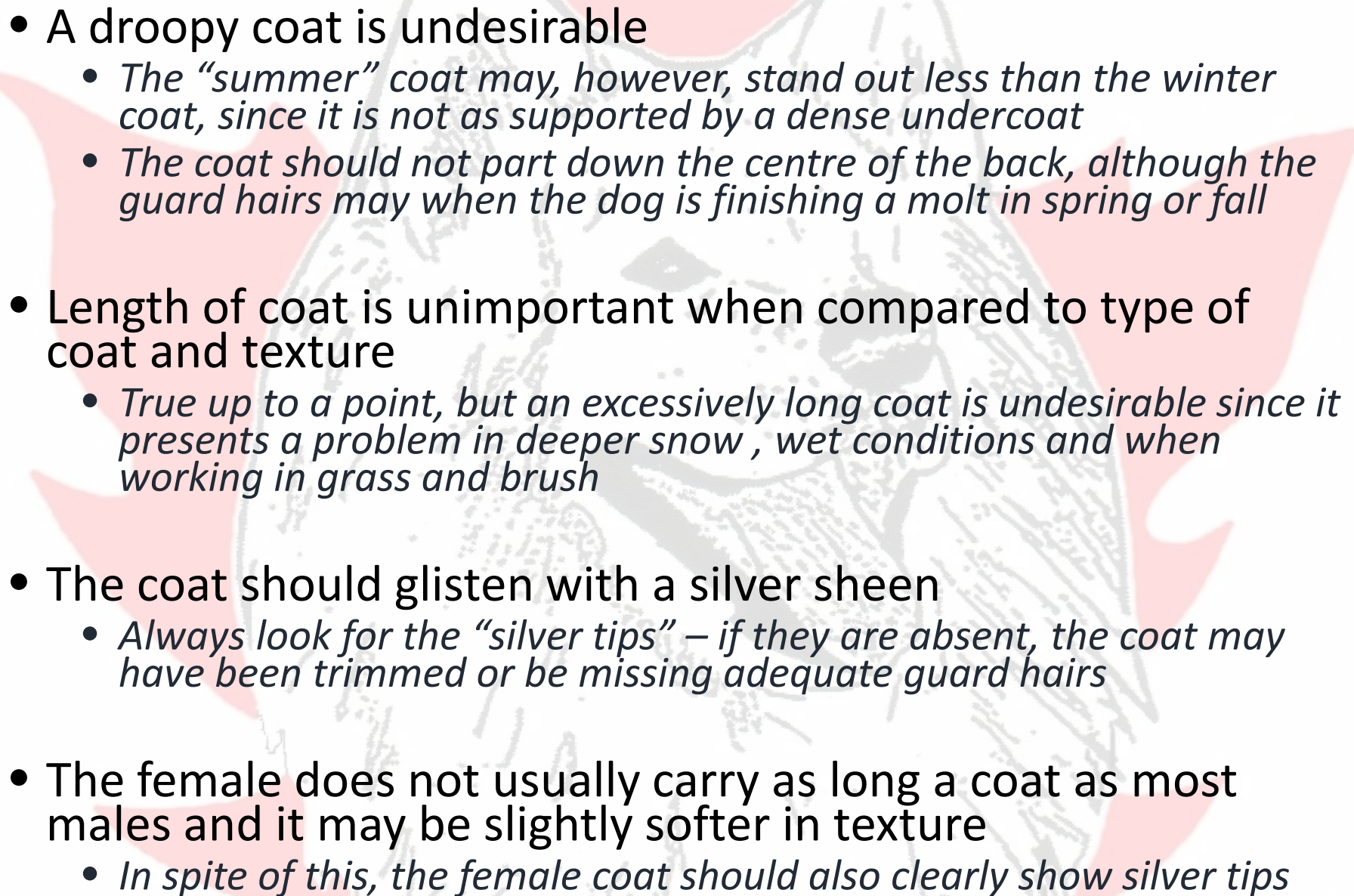
- The Samoyed is a double-coated dog
- The body should be well covered with an undercoat of soft, short thick closed wool with longer, harsher hair growing through it to form the outer coat, which stands straight out from the body and should be free from curl in the **adult** dog

- *The coat should be harsher than the Siberian but lighter and less “oily” than the Malamute*
- *Guard hairs in adults should be slightly longer than the undercoat, standing up from the skin but “hiding” the undercoat*
- *Plush coats, although becoming more common, are not as functionally correct*
 - *They do not retain heat as well, or repel rain and snow as well*
- *Puppy coats are often not completely shed until the age of 2*
 - *They do not have well-developed guard hairs and so may appear “fuzzier” than adults, and will feel much softer*

- The coat should form a ruff around the neck and shoulders, framing the head (more on the males than on the females)



- *This is true in all seasons, but quantity should be appropriate to the season*
 - A “winter” coat should have an undercoat thick enough to make it difficult to feel the skin
 - A “summer” coat should have much less undercoat so as to keep an active dog from overheating, but the skin should not show through the coat!
- **Quality of coat should be weather resistant and considered more important than quantity**
- *The white coat protects the skin, acting to retain heat in winter and repel heat from the sun in summer*

- 
- A droopy coat is undesirable
 - *The “summer” coat may, however, stand out less than the winter coat, since it is not as supported by a dense undercoat*
 - *The coat should not part down the centre of the back, although the guard hairs may when the dog is finishing a molt in spring or fall*
 - Length of coat is unimportant when compared to type of coat and texture
 - *True up to a point, but an excessively long coat is undesirable since it presents a problem in deeper snow , wet conditions and when working in grass and brush*
 - The coat should glisten with a silver sheen
 - *Always look for the “silver tips” – if they are absent, the coat may have been trimmed or be missing adequate guard hairs*
 - The female does not usually carry as long a coat as most males and it may be slightly softer in texture
 - *In spite of this, the female coat should also clearly show silver tips*



- **Colour**

- They must be white, white and biscuit, white and cream, cream or all biscuit
- All of these colours should be considered **equal**
 - *Remember that the Standard lists no colour preference among the colours noted above*
- Any other colours disqualify
 - *If when judging you notice that "lucky " black hair ...that is not what we are talking about in our DQ ...!*

Coat Faults:

- Curly, wavy, flat, droopy, soft or silky outer-coat is extremely undesirable
 - *Note, though, that puppy coats may have some curl*
 - *Soft and silky guard hairs are the **worst** of this group of faults, since this affects weatherproofing*
- Excessive coat [often called a glamour coat – and often very long, even reaching the ground] should be viewed as an exaggeration of type and is a fault
 - *Note though, that coat is often “bigger” and softer in old dogs, especially those who have been neutered*



- Extremely short, smooth coats are not typical
 - *This is not equivalent to the “plush” coat, which is longer and stand-off, with little variation in length over the body (similar to the coat of a Siberian Husky)*
- Lack of undercoat (with seasonal consideration)
 - *This is important – a Samoyed should **not** carry a full undercoat in the summer!*
- Coat parting down back
 - *As previously noted, though – the guard hairs rely to a large extent on undercoat to hold them up. The coat may part when a dog has just finished molting and be perfectly fine once some undercoat has grown back.*

Head:



Skull:



- The skull is **wedge-shaped, broad, flat, not round or apple-headed, and should form an equilateral triangle on lines between the inner base of the ears and the center point of the stop**
- The stop should not be too abrupt, nevertheless well defined
 - *Hair may make the stop look more abrupt than it actually is*
 - *In profile, there should not be a “dish-faced” appearance*
- In profile the top line of the skull should parallel the top line of the muzzle



Muzzle:



- Muzzle of **medium** length and **medium** width, neither coarse nor snipy; should **taper** toward the nose and be in proportion to the size of the dog and width of skull
- **Length of muzzle should be slightly shorter than length of skull**
 - *Too short a muzzle is dangerous in the Arctic cold, since inhaled air cannot be warmed sufficiently*
- The muzzle must have **depth** with a **strong under-jaw**
- Whiskers should not be removed

Nose:



Photo by Jim Wilson

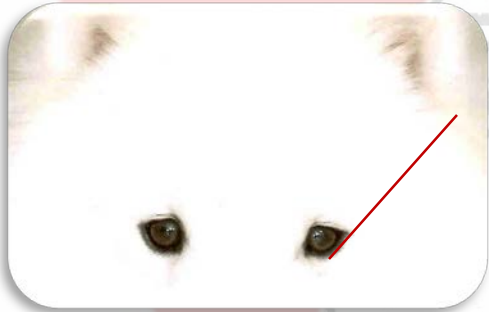
- Black for preference, but brown, liver or snow-nose **not penalized**
- Colour of nose sometimes changes with age and weather
 - *And hormones*

Mouth:

- Lips should be black for preference and slightly curved up at the corners of the mouth, giving the "Samoyed Smile"
- Lip lines should not have the appearance of being coarse nor should the flews drop predominantly at the corners of the mouth
- The teeth should be strong, well-set, and snugly overlapping in a scissor bite
- Overshot or undershot should be penalized



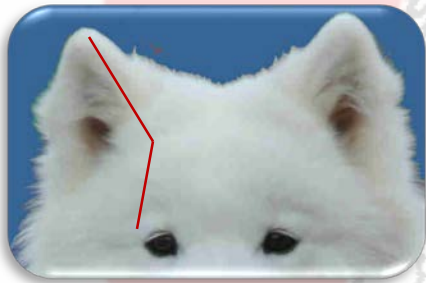
Eyes:



- Should be placed well apart and deep-set; almond shaped rims set with lower lid slanting toward an imaginary point approximating the outer base of the ear
 - *The small deep set eyes are crucial to prevent snow blindness*
- **Both eye rims and eye colour should be dark**
- **Round or protruding eyes penalized**
- **Blue eyes disqualify**

Ears:

- Strong and thick, erect, triangular and slightly rounded at the tips; should not be large or pointed, nor should they be small and "bear-eared"
- Ears should conform to head size and the size of the dog
- They should be mobile and well covered inside with hair; hair full and stand-off before the ears
- Length of ear should be the same measurement as the distance from the inner base of the ear to the outer corner of the eye
 - *Hair can mask this, so hands-on estimation is necessary*



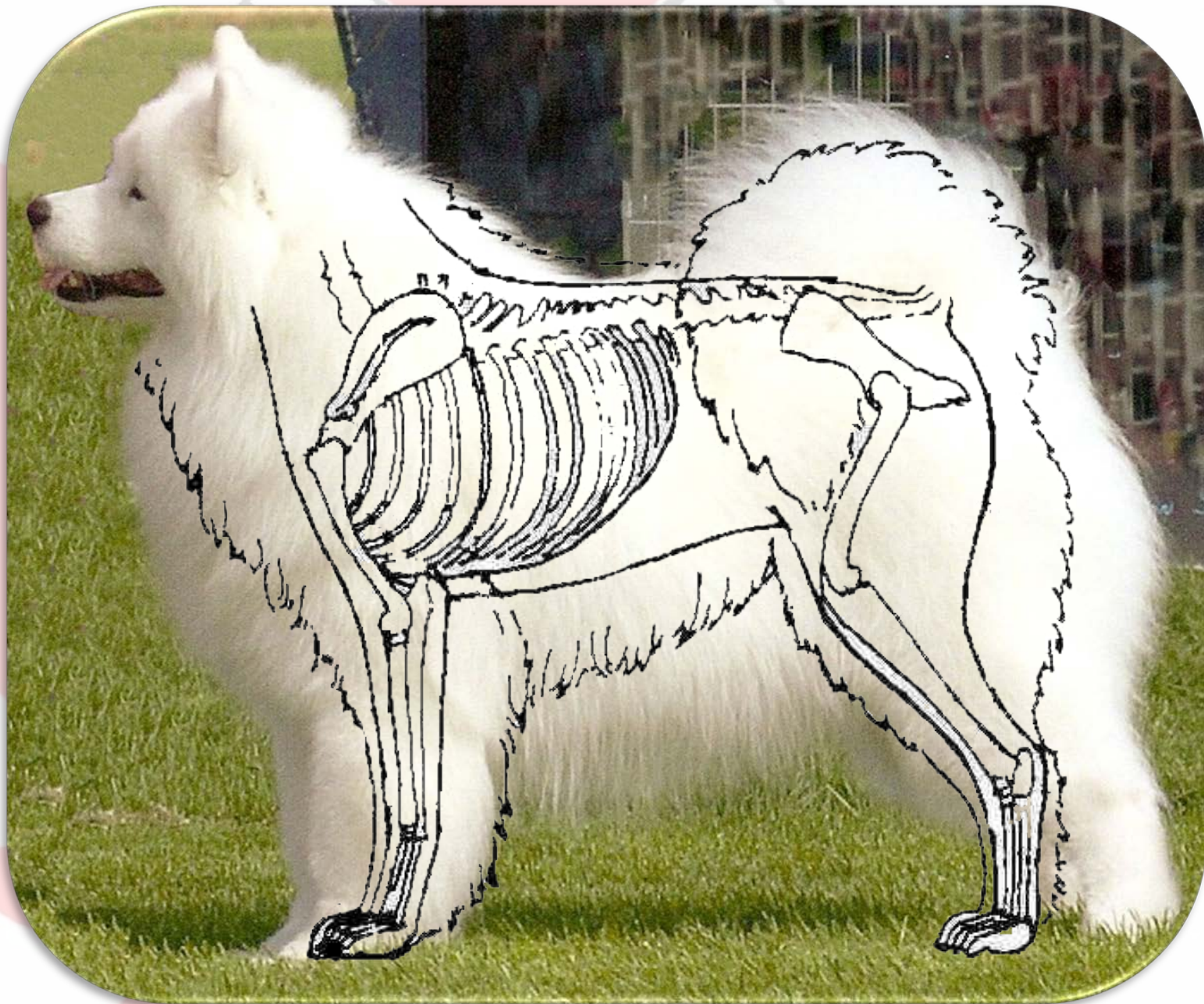
NECK:

- Strong, well muscled, moderately long, well arched; carried proudly when standing, set on sloping shoulders to carry head with dignity when at attention
- Neck should blend in to shoulders with graceful arch
- **When moving at a trot, the neck is extended so that the head is carried slightly forward**
 - *In reality, for balance, the head should be carried more than slightly forward, and should be further forward and down with a faster pace*



THE “INSIDE” SAMOYED

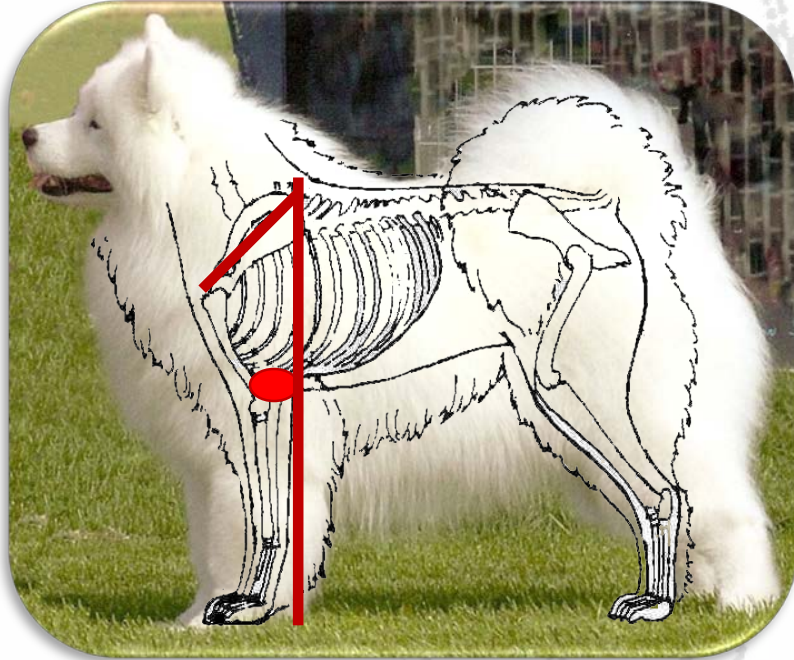






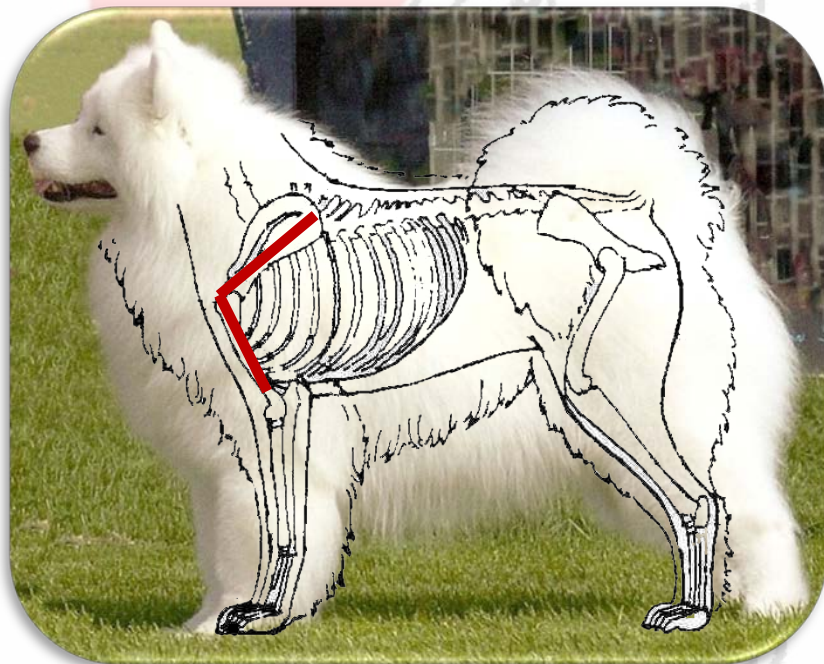
Forequarters

Shoulder:

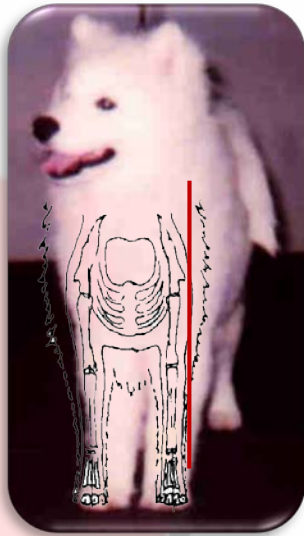


- Shoulders should be long and sloping, with the shoulder blade well laid back at an **IDEAL** angle of 45 degrees to the ground
- In the correctly constructed and balanced front assembly, the forelimbs are placed **well back on the ribcage**, with the point of the sternum (breastbone) well ahead of the front of the shoulder joint (point of shoulder)
 - *Supports weight of body*
 - *Note that the point of the sternum should **not** be **TOO** pronounced, as this would negatively affect movement of the front end and would not allow comfortable work in harness*
- The length of the shoulder blade is approximately 1/3 the height at the tip of the withers

Upper Arm:

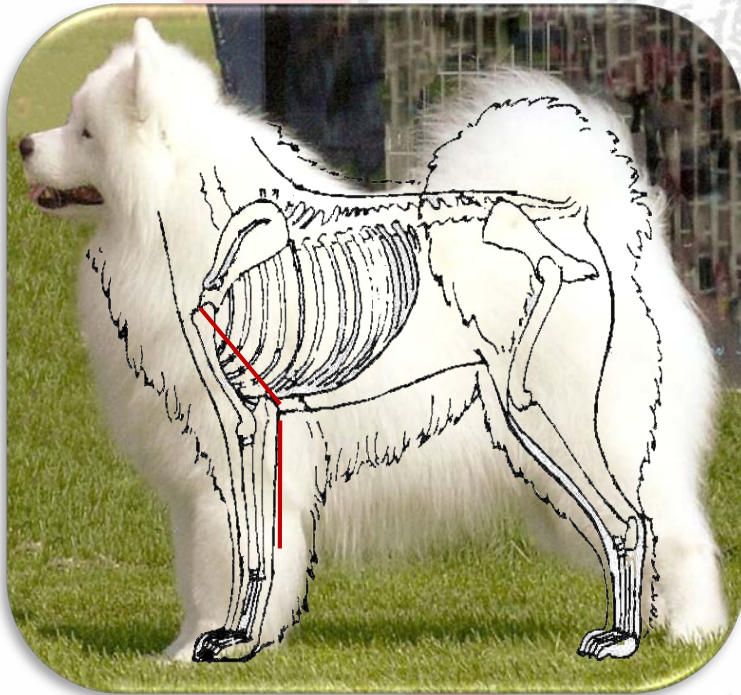


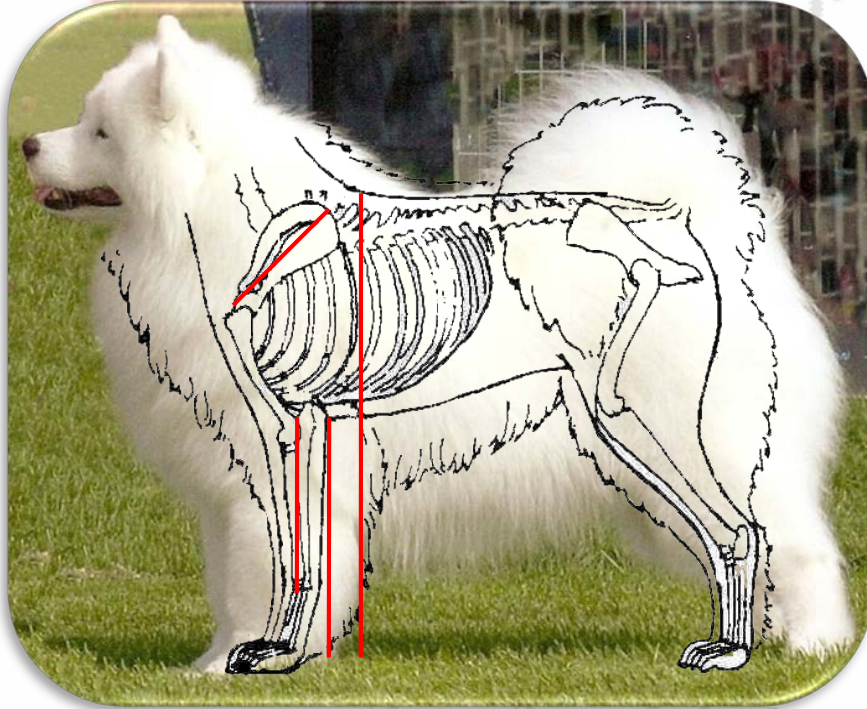
- The upper arm (humerus) angles backwards from point of shoulder to elbow, ideally forming a 90 degree angle with the shoulder blade, and is **never** perpendicular to the ground
- The measurement from tip of shoulder blade to point of shoulder should equal measurement from point of shoulder to elbow
 - *Both of these measurements allow for balanced efficient front end movement*



Lower Arm (radius & ulna):

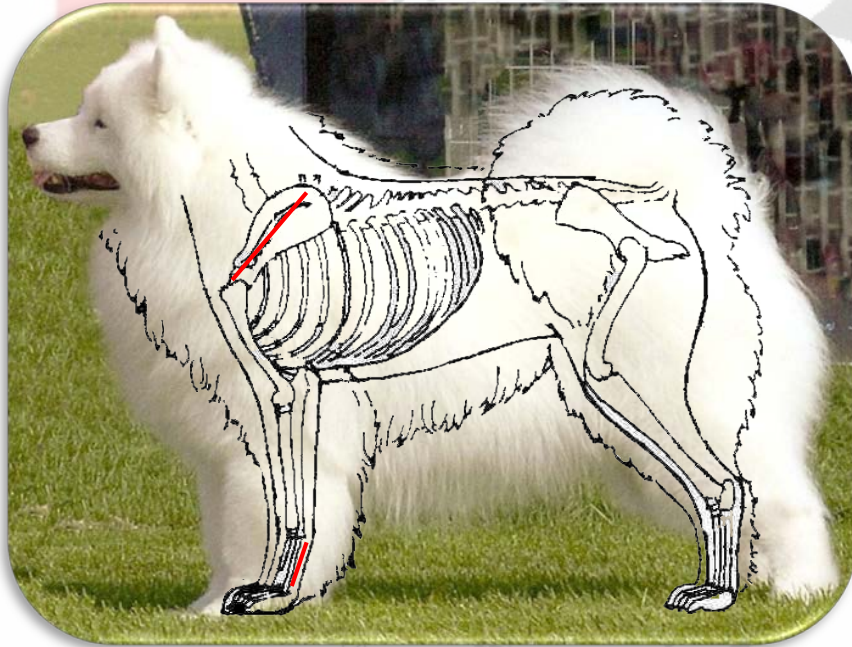
- When standing and viewed from the front, the legs are moderately spaced, parallel and straight, with elbows close to the body and turned neither in nor out
 - *From front, legs should form a vertical column to easily support the weight of the body*
 - *Front feet may turn out a bit for balance*
- The angle at the elbow joint should be approximately 135 degrees





- Because of depth of chest, legs should be moderately long
- Length of lower arm should be 1 to 2 inches longer than length of scapula
- Length of leg from ground to elbow should be approximately 55% of the total height at the withers
 - *Should have good leg length but not be “leggy”*

Pasterns:

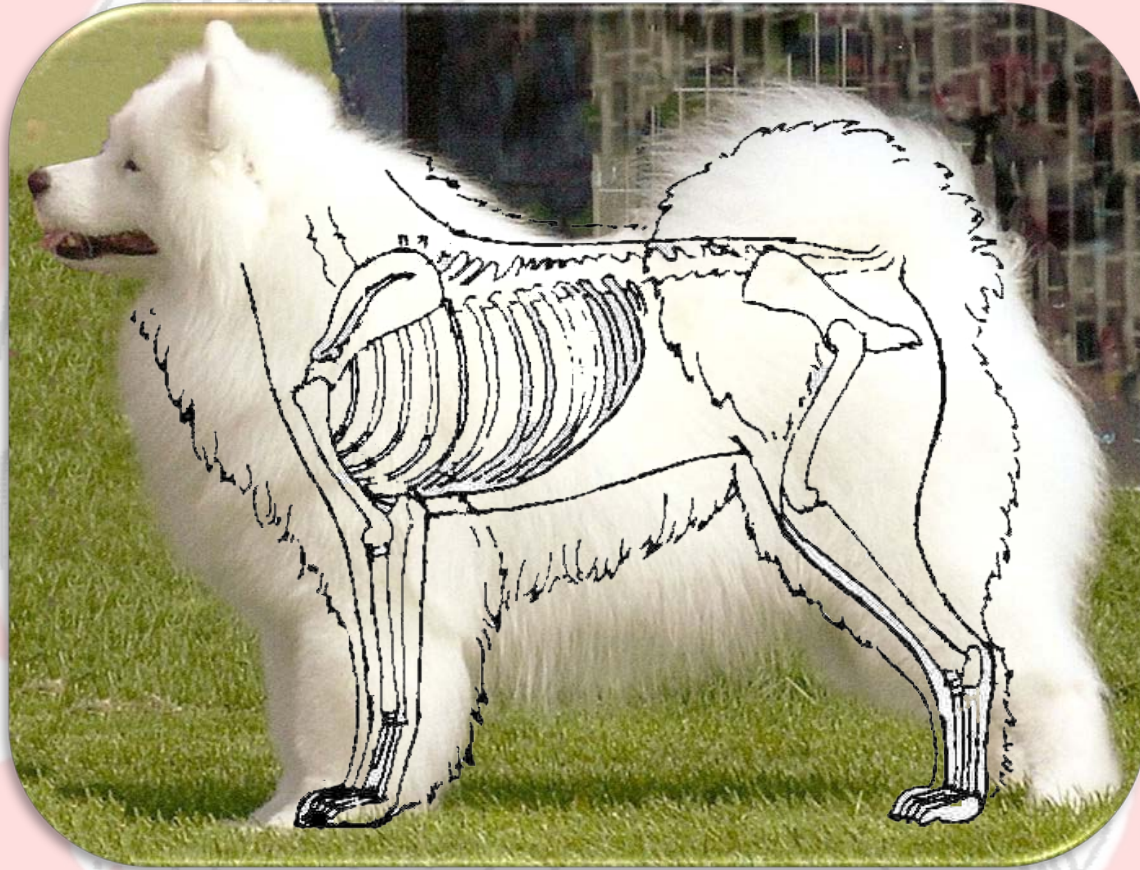


- Should be strong, sturdy and flexible
- The pastern slopes at approximately 15 degrees from the vertical, **allowing for spring and agility**, and should not be more than $\frac{1}{3}$ the length of the shoulder blade
 - *A pastern which is too vertical does not absorb shock and can result in shoulder and elbow damage*
 - *A pastern which is too angled can be painful and supporting tissues can stretch, causing a dog to go even more down on its pasterns*

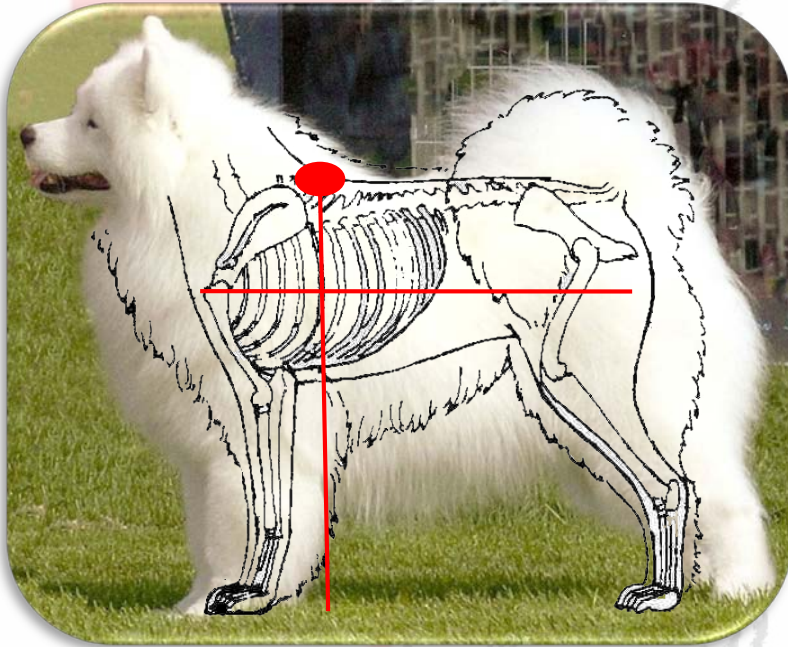
Feet:

- **Large, long, flattish, a hare-foot**, slightly spread but not splayed; toes arched, pads thick and tough, with protective growth of hair between the toes
 - *They should **never** be “cat” feet, or trimmed to look like that*
- In natural stance, feet may be turned very slightly out - but excessive turnout, pigeon-toed, round or cat-footed or splayed are faults

Body:

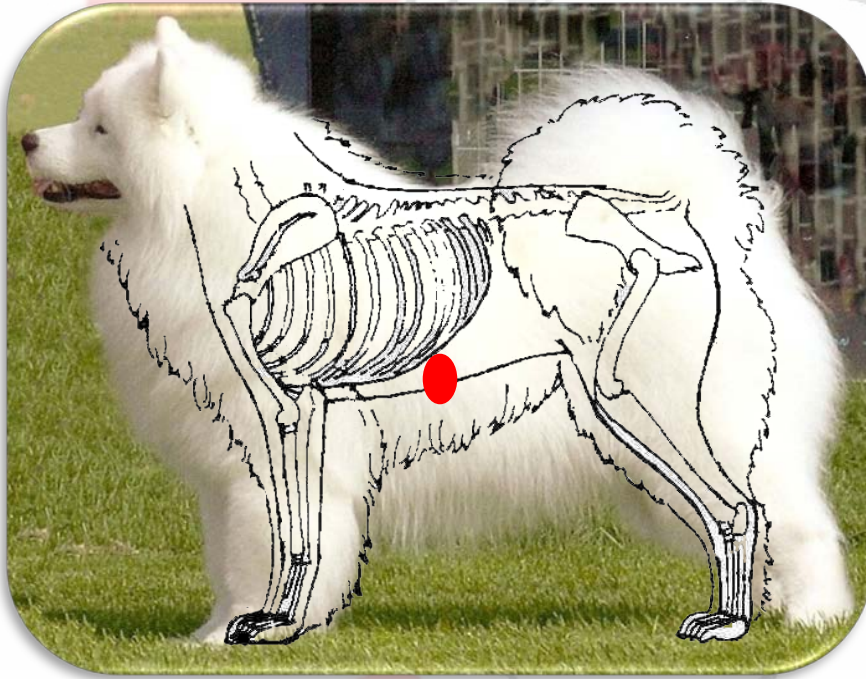


Top line:



- The withers forms the highest part of the back
- The back should appear **level** to the loin, **medium** in length, very muscular, neither long nor short coupled
 - *Should give the dog the appearance of being just a tiny bit longer than tall*
- The ideal length of the Samoyed from tip of sternum (breastbone) to end of pelvis is 10% more than the height at the withers
 - *Again – the dog is just off square*

Chest:



- Should be deep with well-sprung ribs
- **Should not be barrel-chested**
 - The rib cage should be flattened at the sides to allow proper movement of the shoulders and freedom for the front legs
- The deepest part of the chest should be near the 9th rib
 - *Dog has 13 pairs of ribs*
- Heart and lung room are secured **more by body depth than width**

Loin:

- The loin is strong and slightly arched

Croup:

- Must be full, slightly sloping and must continue imperceptibly to the root of the tail

Abdomen:

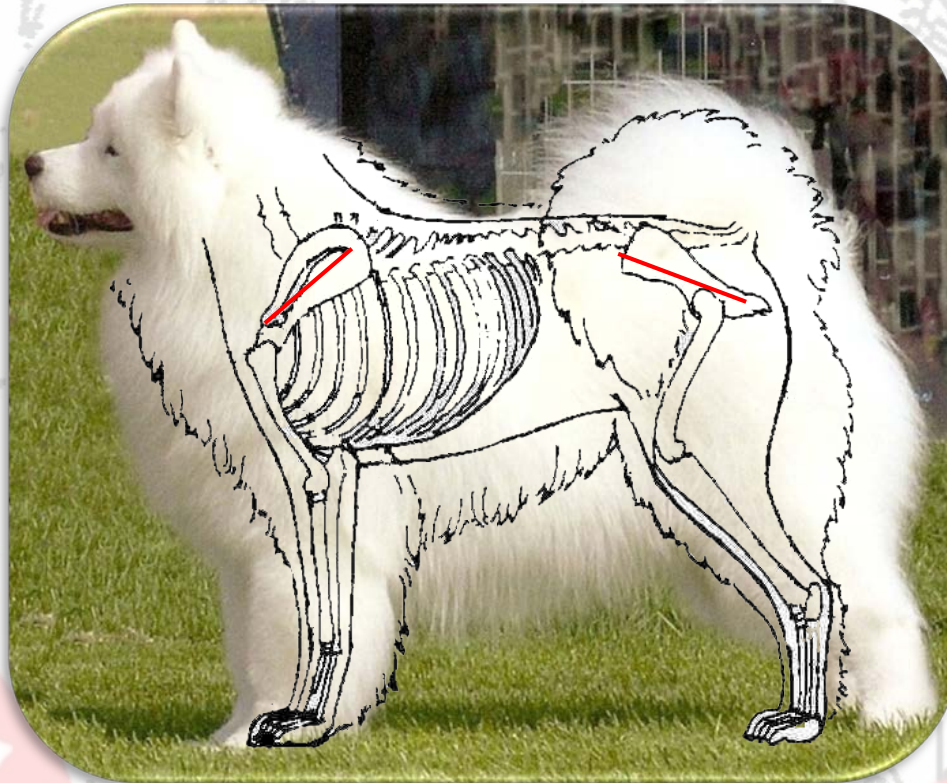
- The abdomen should be well shaped and tightly muscled and with the rear of the thorax, should swing up in a pleasing curve (tuck-up)



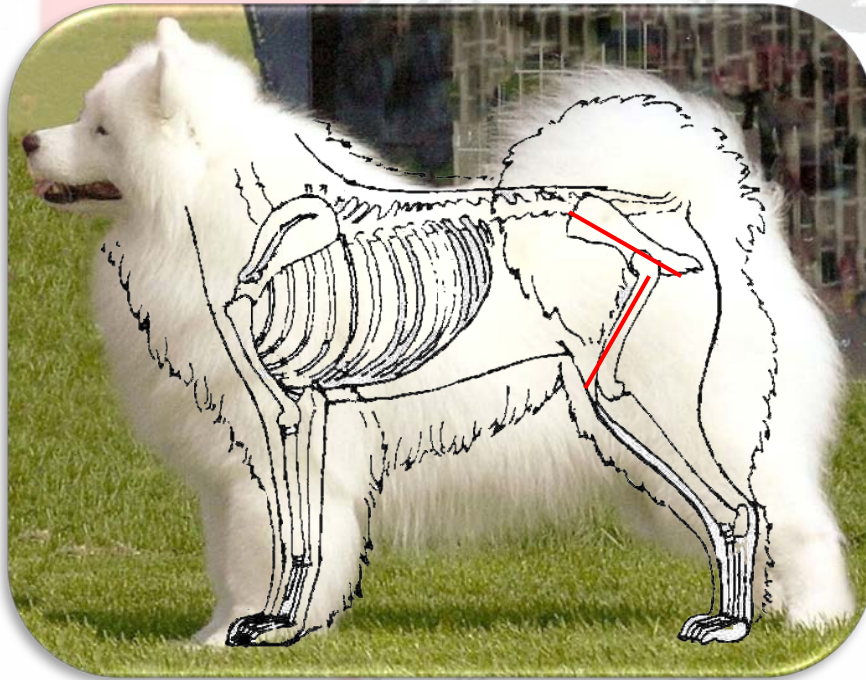
Hindquarters

Hipbone:

- The pelvis is set at 30 degrees to the horizontal and the length of the pelvis is equal to the length of the shoulder blade measurement

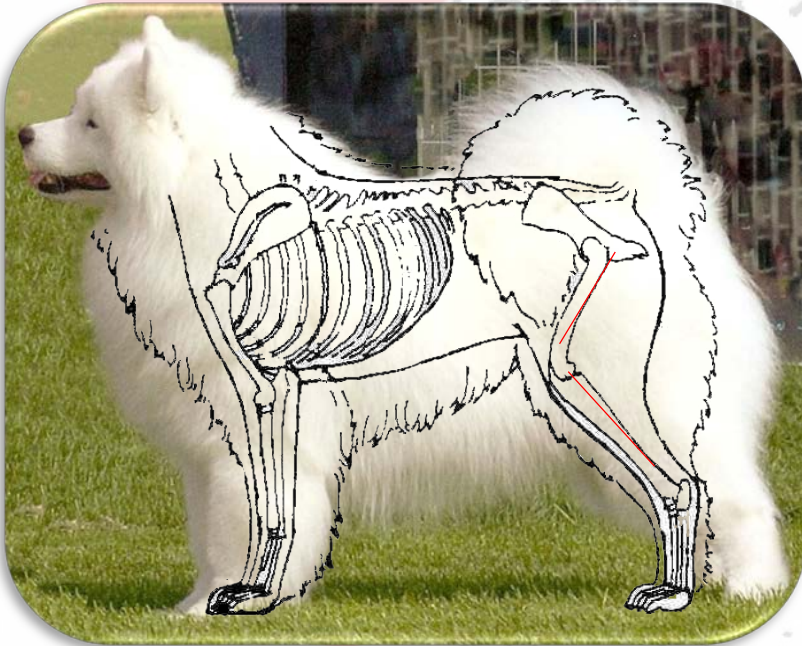


Upper Thigh:



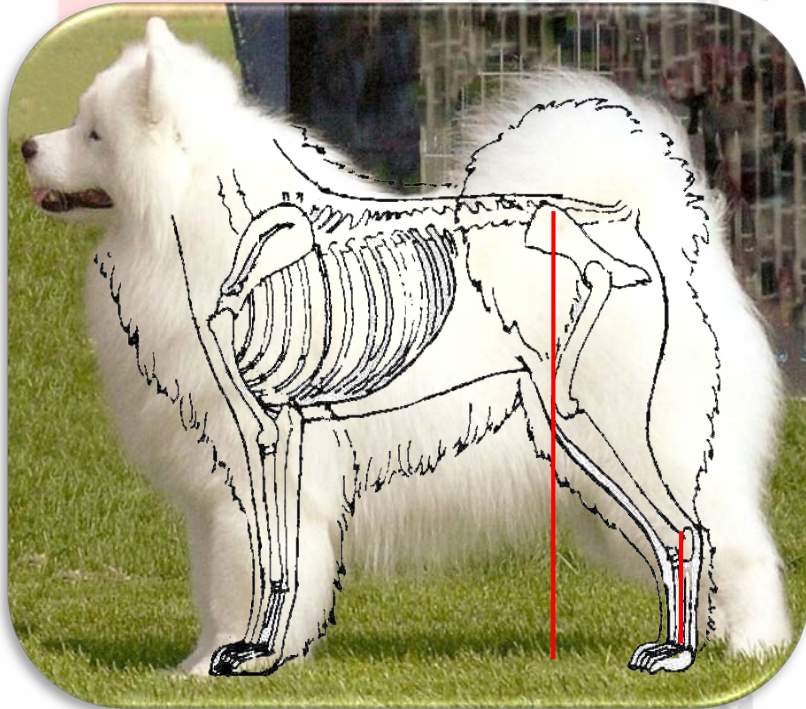
- The femur or thigh joins the pelvis at the hip socket, ideally forming a 90 degree angle
- The measurement of the femur is equal to the length of the pelvis
- Muscle attachments must be very powerful, broad and evenly distributed
 - *The muscle on the inside of the rear legs should feel moderately thick, as an indication of the conditioning of the dog*
 - *It should never feel flaccid except, possibly, in extremely old veterans*

Lower Thigh:

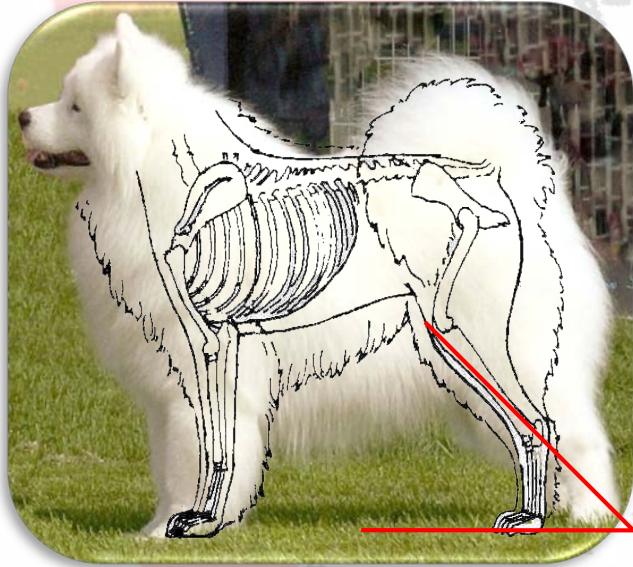


- The lower thigh, comprised of the tibia and fibula, is ideally set at 90 degrees to the femur or upper thigh and is approximately 1/3 longer than the pelvis
- **This length is very important to the gait**
 - *It balances the front end proportions so the dog can move efficiently and in balance*

Hocks:



- Should be well developed, sharply defined and set at approximately **30% of hip height**
- The rear pasterns should be **parallel**, and **perpendicular to the ground in natural stance** and form an angle of about 120 degrees with the lower thigh or fibula and tibia
 - *The hocks should not be set far back of the body in a natural stance – they must support the weight*



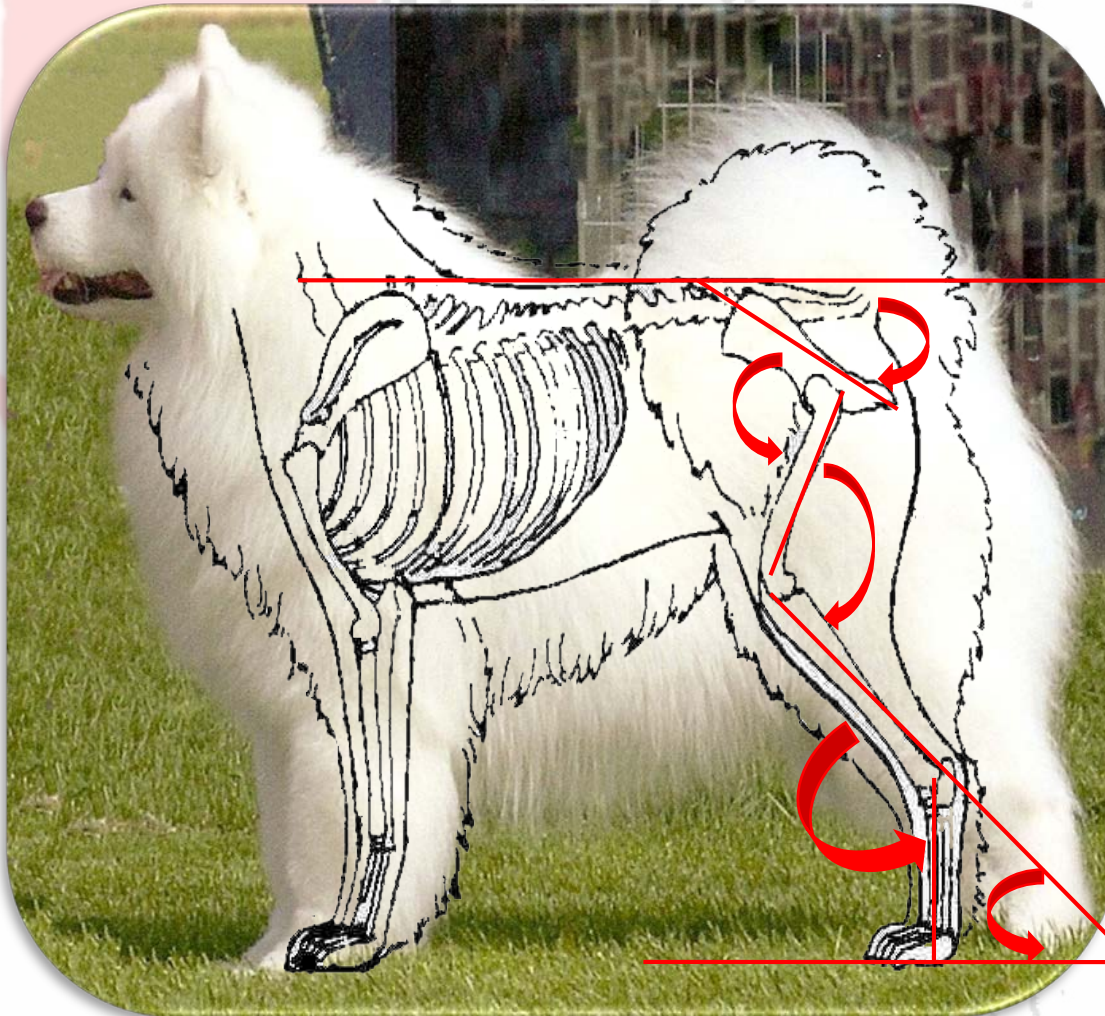
Stifle Bend:

- Stifles are well bent, approximately 45 degrees to the ground

Feet:

- A hare-foot, same as the front feet, although may be slightly longer and narrower than the front

Resolving the problem with the standards description of the rear assembly: according to the standard, angles should be



30°

90°

90°

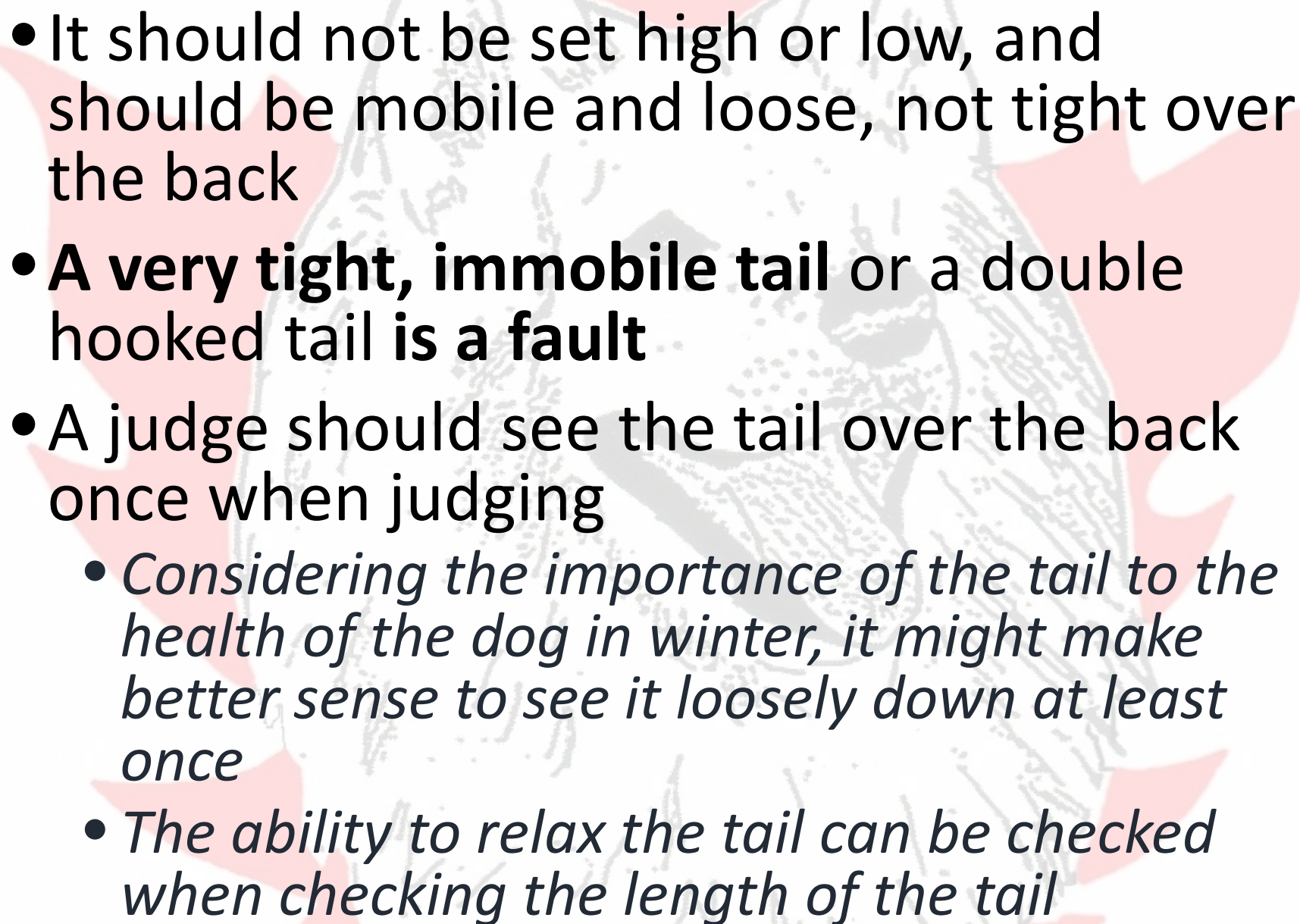
120°

45°

**Algebraically -THIS
CANNOT WORK!
So go by general
appearance as
shown in the
diagram**

TAIL:

- The tail should be moderately long with the tail bone terminating approximately at the hock when down
- It should be profusely covered with long hair and carried forward over the back and draped to either side when alert but sometimes dropped when at rest

- 
- It should not be set high or low, and should be mobile and loose, not tight over the back
 - **A very tight, immobile tail or a double hooked tail is a fault**
 - A judge should see the tail over the back once when judging
 - *Considering the importance of the tail to the health of the dog in winter, it might make better sense to see it loosely down at least once*
 - *The ability to relax the tail can be checked when checking the length of the tail*

GAIT:

The Samoyed was originally capable of trotting very long distances over rough ground and snow and ice.

IT SHOULD STILL BE ABLE TO DO SO!

- The Samoyed's characteristic gait is **smooth and seemingly effortless**
- They are quick and light on their feet and when on a loose lead at a **moderately fast trot** (*please – no flying trots in the ring*), exhibiting good reach in the forequarter and powerful drive in the hindquarters, allowing them to **cover the most ground with the fewest number of steps, expending the least amount of energy to perform the job for which they were bred**

- **Side gait is extremely important in assessing the desired reach and drive in the Samoyed**

- *Should demonstrate good reach and drive*
- *When seen from the side at a moderate trot, the front and back legs should form an A, with both sides even*
- *It should never look as if it is running up or down hill*
- ***Every moment the feet are off the ground is a wasted moment***





Excellent reach and
drive and balance



This may look flashy,
but it is BAD
movement – wasted
energy and totally non-
functional!



Hacking front –
may also be
flashy but a
waste of
energy!

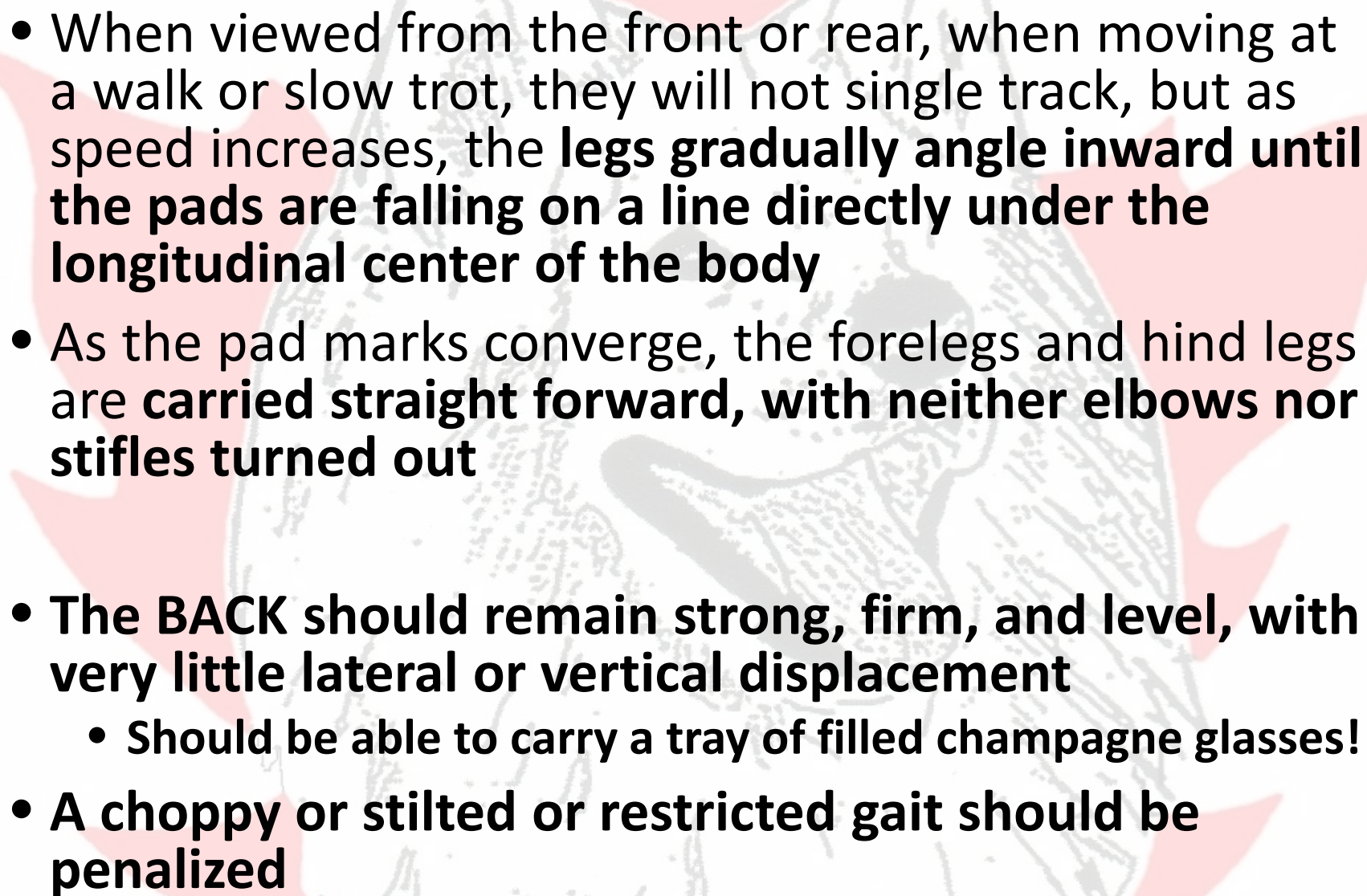
Stilted gait
– poor
reach and
drive





All these dogs are over-reaching.
Are they cornering?
Are they moving at a flying trot?
Do they just have bad movement?

They must be observed from the side at a moderate trot to tell!

- 
- When viewed from the front or rear, when moving at a walk or slow trot, they will not single track, but as speed increases, the **legs gradually angle inward until the pads are falling on a line directly under the longitudinal center of the body**
 - As the pad marks converge, the forelegs and hind legs are **carried straight forward, with neither elbows nor stifles turned out**
 - **The BACK should remain strong, firm, and level, with very little lateral or vertical displacement**
 - **Should be able to carry a tray of filled champagne glasses!**
 - **A choppy or stilted or restricted gait should be penalized**

FAULTS:

- The foregoing description is that of the ideal Samoyed
- Any deviation from the above described dog must be penalized to the extent of the deviation
- **Since the Samoyed is a working breed any faults of soundness should be considered serious**

DISQUALIFICATIONS:

- Any colour other than white, biscuit, white and biscuit, white and cream, cream
- Blue eyes



The Question of Type

There is only one – that
described in the Standard -

but



- Historical differences of the dogs according to region and function led to the diversity maintained in the breed to this day, where they range from
 - The rangier leggier Samoyed, often with a shorter coat, at the top left
 - to
 - The more compact cobbler Samoyed, often with a longer coat – seen bottom left
- **Both ends of the range lie within the current CKC standard and both are fully acceptable today, providing that neither exhibit their characteristics to the extreme!**



And remember: If it's round – it's wrong

If the **eye rims** are round – *it's wrong*

If the **head** is round – *it's wrong*

If the **muzzle** is round – *it's wrong*

If the **ears** are round – *it's wrong*

If the **chest** is round – *it's wrong*

If the **feet** are round – *it's wrong*

and

If the **coat** is round – *it's wrong*

-the late Dolly Ward, Samoyed breeder, judge and author

Acknowledgements:

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