

*The Samoyed Club
of South Australia*

is sponsored by



*The Samoyed Club
of South Australia Inc.*

Club Activities

The club supports members involved in a range of activities including:

Dog Shows	Sled Dog Racing
Obedience	Weight Pull
Herding	Pack Hiking
Agility	Tracking

The club is affiliated with the SA Canine Assoc. and maintains close links with other like-minded clubs and organisations such as the Siberian Husky & Alaskan Malamute Club, the SA Sled Dog Club and the Wild Dog Musers Assoc.

Membership

Single:	\$ 5 per year
Household:	\$10 per year

Financial Year: October to September

Contacts

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Web: <http://www.samoyedclubofsa.com>

Chat: http://au.groups.yahoo.com/group/letstalk_samoyedsinsa

*The
Samoyed
&
Herding*



History The Samoyed has only been known in the Western World for a little over 100 years. Samoyeds were used by early polar explorers in both the Arctic and Antarctic. They were appreciated for their qualities of intelligence, endurance and adaptability which made them an excellent choice for the job of hauling sleds. These valiant dogs endured terrible hardships serving man in his quest for the poles. Tales of heroic polar exploits have led to the modern perception that the Samoyed is nothing more than a sled dog.

The reality is quite different. The breed is named after a remnant of one of the earliest tribes of Central Asia. After many thousands of years of migration, the people we now call the Samoyedes, along with their faithful dogs, eventually settled in the vast arctic regions of North Western Siberia and Northern Russia more than 2,000 years ago.

Somewhere along the way, they learned to domesticate the wild caribou that they had previously hunted - the animal we now know as the reindeer. In the bleak Arctic tundra, their former agricultural skills were of no use and the tribe regressed to a primitive lifestyle revolving around their reindeer. The deer supplied most of the essentials of life. As well as providing a source of food, their hides were used for clothing, shelter, beds and rugs. Vast herds of reindeer were required to support this lifestyle.



Despite domestication, the reindeer and the Samoyede people still needed to travel the traditional migration routes in search of the main food

source for the herds, a lichen known as Reindeer Moss. Vast tracts of land were grazed and the people had to move camp often. The biannual treks - north to the tundras for summer, and south to the forests for winter - could easily cover 1,000 kilometres or more. It would not have been possible for men on foot to control and muster the herds without the Samoyed Dog.

The dogs were sometimes used for draught work, particularly for hauling small boats along river banks when the annual thaw created an immense network of rivers and streams. Generally, however, with the pulling power of herds of reindeer at their disposal, the people used the deer for the job of hauling their possessions. A dog able to herd deer would be wasted in harness, and in any case, the original



mobile home, a structure of wood and reindeer hide, known as a choom, was far too heavy for a dog team. The dogs herded, guarded, fought off wolves, caught fish and hunted bears. They occasionally hauled, but reindeer did this more efficiently.



And Now Despite the popular perception of a sled dog, breed aficionados have long known of its innate herding abilities. Contemporary anecdotal evidence of the Samoyed's herding heritage is abundant. There are numerous accounts of



incidents where a Samoyed escape artist is eventually found rounding up the neighbour's sheep. Samoyeds are "loose-eyed" herding dogs similar to Collies, Australian Shepherds, Shelties, Belgians etc., relying on body language and bark to control the stock. They exhibit a variety of different styles when working stock - some work very close, even shouldering or

chesting the stock, while others work at a distance relying more on barking. They tend to prefer actual work to competition work, relishing the greater variety of tasks.

Competition Although the first recorded sheep dog trial was held in 1873, herding competition for "the dog fancy" seems to have started in the USA about 20 or so years ago, and Samoyeds were there at the start. In 1992, Samoyeds were the first breed outside the Herding Group to be admitted to AKC herding competition. They have been eligible for competition with the American Herding Breed Assoc. since its inception in 1986, and for even longer with the Australian Shepherd Club of America.

Following a recent submission by the Samoyed Club of SA, the breed is now accepted for herding competition in Australia.

For more information, contact the Secretary, or visit the club's web site at:

<http://www.samoyedclubofsa.com>

Membership Application/Renewal October 2009 to September 2010

Name/s

Address

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..... Postcode

Phone No/s

Mobile

Email

Kennel Name (if applicable)

Name of Dog(s)

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Membership:

Household \$10.00

Single \$ 5.00

Signature

Date

Please make cheques payable to "The Samoyed Club of SA Inc." and forward to:

The Samoyed Club of SA Inc.
c/o The Secretary
PO Box 775,
Two Wells, SA 5501