

## Frequently “Arfed” Questions

### WHAT IS DOG RESCUE?

Dog rescue is a group of volunteers who donate their time to the principle of “rehabilitating” through a process of medical evaluation and treatment, temperament evaluation and dog training to effectively rehome abandoned dogs to thoroughly screened adopters, to ensure the dogs will be in safe hands for the duration of their lives.

Rescue is not selling animals for profit.

Rescue is not handing animals over to unknown or unscreened homes.

### ABOUT NATIONAL SAMOYED RESCUE

#### 1) What is National Samoyed Rescue?

National Samoyed Rescue is an affiliation of dog rescues whose main purpose is to give new hope to Samoyeds who, through no fault of their own, are in need of a new place to call home. All of the affiliated rescues work as their own organization with their own rules and procedures, however, through this affiliation all of these rescues have joined together through networking and sharing of knowledge, information and support to make the whole process from intake to adoption just that much easier.

### ABOUT SAMOYED RESCUE

#### 1) How do I get a rescue dog?

The process of adopting a rescue dog may seem complicated and time consuming but, in the long run it is well worth the time and effort involved.

After you have done the research on the Samoyed breed and after you have found a particular dog you are interested in or a particular rescue you want to work with, you will need to follow the adoption procedures. Usually, these adoption procedures include: a) filling out an adoption application which gives the rescue a good idea of who you are, your lifestyle and how you will care for your new dog, b) doing a home visit which gives the rescue an opportunity to talk, one on one, with you and to see your general family situation and to see if the dog you have an interest in is the “right fit” for you, c) visiting the dog you are interested in gives you and the rescue an opportunity to see if you and the dog are a good match. This is usually done at the dog’s foster home. This is a good time to review all medical records and evaluations the dog has had, d) signing the adoption contract is a very important part of the process. It gives you and the rescue a chance to review your responsibilities for your new dog and the rescue’s responsibilities to you and the dog. In this adoption contract will usually be a set amount you will need to pay for your new dog. This is called an adoption fee. **Please, read this contract carefully before signing and ask any questions you may have.** e) Getting your new dog follows the procedures of the rescue and may vary between rescues but, it may include coming to pick up your dog or, if you have another dog, a rescue may bring the dog to you so that your new dog may meet your other dog in a “neutral setting” usually somewhere outside your home.

Remember, be patient, do your research, ask questions and be ready for a great life with a deserving rescue dog.

#### 2) Where do rescue dogs come from?

Most dogs that are taken in to rescue come from animal shelters. Some also come from people who can no longer keep them. Because dogs in animal shelters are often at risk of being euthanized if they are not adopted from the shelter within a few weeks, these dogs generally take priority over dogs coming directly from a home.

#### 3) How do I surrender my Samoyed to a rescue group?

The best way is to contact the Samoyed rescue or Northern breed rescue organization in your area via their website. Do an Internet search on “Samoyed rescue” plus your state or city name. This should easily send you to your local Samoyed rescue organization. Be aware that some rescue groups will not take dogs directly from owners if they do not have the foster homes available for the dog. However, if you can “foster” your dog you might be able to post the dog on their website and help you look for a new home for your dog.

#### 4) What happens to a dog once it’s in a rescue program?

Generally the dog is examined by a veterinarian and once given a clean bill of health the dog is placed with a foster home or kenneled if a foster home is not available. The dog is photographed or photos from the surrendering person are used and a short biography is written about him/her (age, sex, temperament, health, history, if available) and placed in the "Adoptable Dogs" link on the rescue's website.

Once a person/family shows interest in the dog, they fill out a pre-adoption questionnaire, a Samoyed rescue member visits their home to interview them and insure they live in an environment conducive to raising a Samoyed. Once that procedure is done and the person/family is approved, an adoption contract is signed and the dog is placed. A return visit or contact with the person/family, usually 30 days later, is done to make sure both dog and human are working out. "It's all about the dog" when it comes to adoption.

#### **5) I saw/heard about a Samoyed that's in a shelter! What do I do?**

If it is listed as a Samoyed certainly rescue would like to be informed. You may find a list of rescues affiliated with National Samoyed Rescue (NSR) on our website <http://www.samoyedrescue.org>. You may contact any of these rescues directly if they are close to the shelter otherwise you can email [info@samoyedrescue.org](mailto:info@samoyedrescue.org) or call 1-888-677-7263. You may also do an internet search for Samoyed rescue in the area. If you feel passionate enough about the breed and have the time and experience with dogs you can volunteer to foster the dog for the shelter. Remember one very important thing; if you "pull" the dog from the shelter you are in essence adopting the dog under the shelter's guidelines and it is then your dog. You must never "pull" a dog from a shelter in expectation that rescue will take it unless you actually are an authorized volunteer for that rescue.

#### **6) I want to help a rescue program! What can I do as an individual?**

First and foremost, most rescue groups need fosters. If you can temporarily open your home to a needy Samoyed while he/she goes through the adoption process that would be the single most important thing an organization can ask for. If you would like to get involved in other ways, consider being a board member, helping at events, doing fundraising, etc. Check with your local group or with National Samoyed Rescue to see what help is most needed.

#### **7) How much do rescue dogs cost?**

That depends on each individual rescue group. As a rule, age and how close to being a pure bred Samoyed dictates the donation request. There is often just a flat adoption fee that varies from rescue to rescue. Most, if not all rescue organizations are nonprofit and some portion of the adoption fee can be a tax write off.

#### **8) What do I do when I find that I can no longer keep my adopted Samoyed?**

First and foremost it is important that you keep in touch with and keep all the paperwork from the rescue organization or shelter you adopted your Samoyed. They always like to know how things are going and they often times help you through any issues you may encounter.

If you feel you are in a situation where you can no longer keep your adopted Samoyed, please, contact that rescue or shelter so they can work you through the procedures so they can help you get your Samoyed back to them. As a side note, please, do not wait until the "last minute" before contacting the rescue or shelter.

#### **9) I lost my Samoyed, what can I do?**

The best thing to remember is: don't panic. Procedures and help are out there to help recover a lost pet. One very good website with suggestions about finding a lost pet and keeping a pet safely in your care is <http://www.lostdogsearch.com>

Also(See attached file(s)) 1) "A Missing Dog To Do List"—pdf, 2) "Lost Dog Search Basics"—pdf, 3) "Lost Dog Sighting Calls"—pdf, 4) "Lost Dogs Tip To Prevent A Lost Dog"—pdf.

#### **10) Where do you keep rescue dogs while looking for homes for them?**

Most Samoyed rescue groups keep rescued dogs in foster homes, usually with one of the more active members, board members or officers of the local rescue. A few have kennel facilities. Some rescues also use boarding kennels when they don't have enough foster homes available. The advantage of a foster home is that it provides the dog a home environment in which to be evaluated, trained and happy.

## **11) What are the criteria for adopting a dog?**

Each rescue group has its own set of criteria. You should check with your local rescue to find out what their requirements are. Most rescues will likely require that the dog be an indoor dog, that your house and yard be secure to prevent the dog's escape, that a home check be done to be sure there is a good match between your family and any dog you might adopt and a follow up home visit, usually around 30 days after the adoption is final, to see how the adjustment to the adoption are going. You should also expect to sign a contract that explains the expectations the rescue has regarding the care of the dog and usually requiring that the dog be returned to rescue should you no longer be able to keep the dog.

## **ABOUT SAMOYEDS**

### **1) Where can I go to find out information on the Samoyed breed?**

There are many places you can go to find out about our breed. First, you might want to go your public library and pick up a book or two. To find a good list of Samoyed books you may go to our website, <http://www.samoyedrescue.org>, If you go to "Breed Info" on the top toolbar on our home page and click on "Samoyed Reading List" it will take you to a list of books recommended by the breed's parent club, the Samoyed Club of America.

If you prefer to go to the Internet to research the breed you can go first to:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samoyed\\_dog](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samoyed_dog) or

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient\\_dog\\_breeds](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_dog_breeds). As an online free encyclopedia

service wikipedia gives a very good and concise overview of the breed. Another place to go is:

[http://www.ehow.com/about\\_6160235\\_origin-samoyed.html](http://www.ehow.com/about_6160235_origin-samoyed.html). Another place to go that

is really informative is one of the regional Samoyed clubs, Denver Samoyed Association, who put

this together <http://www.denversamoyed.org/MeetTheSamoyed.htm>. These are just a

few of the web pages you may go to. To help with future research you can go to the S.C.A. site

<http://www.samoyedclubofamerica.org> or to a regional Samoyed Club or rescue in your

area simply by doing a search of "Samoyed clubs" or "Samoyed rescue" to view some wonderful

incites on not only the breed but, living with a Samoyed. One final stop to your research on the

Samoyed breed is <http://www.akc.org/breeds/Samoyed> and at the very bottom of the

webpage are further places to look in the "Samoyed links" at the bottom of the page.

### **2) What, if any, health issues affect Samoyeds?**

In general Samoyeds are a relatively healthy breed. They, like any other animal do have health issues either genetic or simply age and environmentally caused health issues. To find out more about these disorders/health issues Samoyeds are disposed to you can do a Google type search under (Genetic Disorders in Samoyeds). Do not be alarmed by the list. It is relatively short compared with some breeds and many of those listed are only a very minimal number of cases.

There are several health issues that you, as a potential owner should be concerned about as you spend your life with your Samoyed. Genetically Samoyeds are a sound animal tracing their ancestor back over 3000 years. Genetically there are two major concerns:

**Progressive Retinal Atrophy (PRA)** most researches agree is a genetically transmitted disorder which leads to a progressive lose of sight. There is no known cure for PRA and it does not seem to be a painful condition. Most dogs adjust to the gradual lose of sight and do quite well for many years after their sight is gone. To find out more about PRA you might want to go to <http://www.animaleyecare.net/diseases/pr.htm>. This is a very detailed report on not only the condition but maintenance of a dog affected by PRA.

It is important here that we mention that there is a test for PRA available from certified veterinarians to breeders to certify that their Samoyeds are not affected by PRA called CERF (Canine Eye Registration Foundation). Many breeders do the test and it is a good idea to always ask a breeder you are thinking of buying from if the CERF test has been done and what the certification numbers are.

**Hip Dysplasia** is a genetic condition that affects many of the larger breed dogs and humans. Basically hip dysplasia is a malformation of the hip socket and ball joint which leads to slippage of the leg and pain. There are different degrees of hip dysplasia from mild to severe and it can often be progressive with age. Depending on the severity it may affect the

very young to the very old dogs. To find out more about hip dysplasia you might want to go to <http://www.peteducation.com/article.cfm?c=2+2084&aid=444> or <http://www.offa.org/hipgeninfo.html> . Like PRA there is a test for this disorder. This test involves taking hip x-rays and submitting them to the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) for evaluation and grading. Any licensed vet may do the x-rays if he is willing. The OFA will do the final evaluation and grading and issue an OFA number. Again, like PRA/CERF certification it is always a good idea to ask a breeder if the test has been done on the puppies parents and ask for the OFA number that you can check out. The saddest thing about hip dysplasia is that even with a good or excellent evaluation by OFA there is still a chance, although slim, that a dog may be affected in later life.

Other health issues with Samoyeds that are not genetically related should be mentioned here. **Glaucoma**, as in humans, is a progressive blinding disorder. It mainly has to do with the pressure of a build up of a particular fluid in the eyes that is unable to normally correct itself. It usually affects one eye at a time and left untreated will cause severe pain and blindness. For further information you may want to check out either <http://www.blinddogs.com/articles/glaucoma.htm> or <http://www.animaleyecare.net/diseases/glaucoma.htm>. It should be mentioned here that if your dog is diagnosed with glaucoma do not wait, treatment by a vet is the first priority.

We should talk briefly about a disorder that has affected the majority of the dog world (including Samoyeds) in ever increasing numbers over the years. **Diabetes** in dogs is very similar to diabetes that affects humans and the causes are very similar too. For a huge amount of information you may start by going to

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diabetes\\_in\\_cats\\_and\\_dogs](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diabetes_in_cats_and_dogs). Treatment and maintenance will certainly give your dog a long and healthy life.

One of the most frightening and life shattering conditions that affect larger breed dogs, including Samoyeds is **Bloat** or **Gastric Dilatatio-volvulus**. Bloat is neither genetic disorder nor a disease it is more like a condition certain breeds of dogs may on a rare occasion experience. Basically, bloat is the buildup of gasses in the stomach combined with the inability to expel this gas. This inability to expel the gas may also be accompanied by the twisting or flipping of the stomach called torsion. There are many theories on why bloat occurs but it seems that bloat just happens when multiple situations combine. Bloat is an extremely life threatening condition. If bloat is suspected take your dog immediately to your vet or emergency clinic. Time and hesitation is your dog's enemy. For a great deal of information on bloat check out <http://www.globalspan.net/bloat.htm>

### **3) How do Samoyeds handle summer heat?**

Even though their "natural habitat" is a cool climate, Samoyeds generally do well in warmer climates. Samoyed owners can be found all over the world. Even in warm summer climates as found in Florida, California, and Texas there are Samoyeds. Their double coat, well groomed, acts as an insulator from the heat as much as it works at keeping body temperature at the proper level in cold weather. This is much like desert tribes of humans wearing flowing robes to protect themselves from the heat.

It should be mentioned here that it is important that while you and your Samoyed are outside in the heat of summer there are some things that you should remember: 1) Never let your dog overexert himself. In other words know your dog and keep his activity level lower when it is hot. 2) Provide shade for your dog and access to plenty of water. 3) Dogs do not sweat like people. The majority of body temperature regulation is done by panting and sweating through the paws. Maybe keeping a "kiddy pool" filled with cool water available is a good idea. 4) NEVER shave a Samoyed thinking that it will keep him cooler in the summer because white hair repels/reflects heat. The only time a Samoyed should be shaved is if it has health problems which are being treated by a veterinarian. They have a pink skin that will easily sunburn.

(See attached file—"Belinda Marshall Heat" Article-attached pdf)

### **4) What are they like with children?**

As a breed, Samoyeds are very friendly and social dogs who get along well with children. They were originally bred to be not only working dogs but to be an “alert” dog and to join their families inside their shelters on those long winter nights. It is important to remember here that dogs will be dogs and grabbing their fur, tail or face could alarm the dog and elicit an unwanted response. Always remember that young children should be trained in how to handle a dog properly, this should involve things like: treat a dog gently, approach a dog with your hand out and palm up, always ask an owner before approaching a dog and never allow young children to be unsupervised with any dog.

### **5) Are they indoor or outdoor dogs?**

Both, it just depends on how you raise them, indoors or outdoors. They were originally bred as herders and work dogs so being outside was second nature. Being a thick coated working dog misleads many people to think that they are more of an outdoor dog. Originally bred to endure the harsh climate of the Arctic regions most Samoyeds are very content to spend as much time as possible playing in the snow, but when it comes right down to the true Samoyed nature they would rather spend the majority of their time in the company of their humans. For that reason it has to be said they are both, but when it comes time to relax there is nothing better than a warm Sammie snuggle indoors.

### **6) How much do they eat and what should I feed a Samoyed?**

Diet and weight management are very important in any dogs continued good health. Samoyeds average around 45 to 55 lbs for females and 55 to 70 lbs for males, but only use that only as a general guideline. You really have to know your dog and his general condition or appropriate body weight to tell how much to feed him. Starting with the guidelines on the dog food of your choice you may need to adjust to maintain the optimum body weight. It is important that you do not allow your dog to be overweight because obesity in dogs (like humans) can shorten your dog's life expectancy and will only aggravate potential joint problems.

Deciding what brand of dog food or program to feed your dog will take a bit of research. Generally a good “premium” dry kibble dog food is recommended. A “premium” dog food is usually one whose main ingredient is some form of meat (beef, chicken, lamb, etc.) and has met government and veterinary standards as a complete dog food. Remember that dogs are omnivores and require both meat protein and vegetables in their diet. Use the internet and dog food websites to your advantage. Read dog food labels and understand the ingredients. An interesting and informative website is <http://www.dognutrition.com> which includes

a few articles on dog health and alternative feeding programs like the B.A.R.F. diet (Biologically Appropriate Raw Food or more commonly known as Bone And Raw Food).

In general terms keep your dog slim and fit and avoid feeding human food to your dog no matter how hard he begs.

### **7) How much exercise do they need, and what kind?**

Samoyeds are active animals and 2 to 3 long walks (1/2 hour) a day will keep them fit (and you too). If you have the time and desire there are also a number of activities like sledding, weight pull, skijoring and agility that you can also participate in with your Samoyed. To get more details on these activities you might want to check out <http://www.samoyed.org/ows/index.html> the website for the Organization for the Working Samoyed or the parent club website <http://www.samoyedclubofamerica.org> the Samoyed Club of America.

### **8) How strong are they?**

Samoyeds are listed under the “Working Dog” group in dog shows. This means that they are bred for a specific job or jobs. They were originally bred to herd reindeer and pull sleds. They are very strong dogs and they will tend to walk you

more than you walk them, for that reason it is always good to take at least one basic obedience class and use a good strong leather leash when walking them.

### **9) Do they shed a lot?**

As a long haired double coated breed Samoyeds do have a lot of hair and they do “blow their coat” (shed the majority of their undercoat) during the year. Females usually shed twice a year and males once a year. During this shedding period there will be lots of hair but if the proper bathing and grooming techniques are followed the majority of the hair is gone in about two weeks. The rest of the year Samoyeds do not normally shed much. Compared with the breeds that shed all the time there is relatively little hair. Some really good information can be found on the internet by doing a search: “grooming a Samoyed.” You will find a couple great articles, one under the Sam smiles website and the other very detailed step by step bathing and grooming pdf booklet complete with pictures prepared by the DSA (Denver Samoyed Association).

One thing to be concerned of while grooming and maintaining a Samoyed in a condition called **acute moist dermatitis** or “hot spots.” This is a condition where trapped moisture after bathing or excessive chewing or scratching leads to what they think is a bacterial infection that results in hair loss, irritation, oozing, bleeding and pain in the affected area. It is important to make sure a Samoyed is dried completely after bathing especially in areas of the hips, shoulders and any area where moisture can sit for a longer period of time.

### **10) What about their temperament?**

In general, the Samoyed as a breed is loyal, trusting, intelligent, social and gentle in temperament. They respond to treatment by their human family in kind. If you treat a Samoyed with proper attention, love and respect you will have a dog that will be completely devoted to you for as long as he lives. One thing to always remember is a dog is a dog and will respond as a dog would.

### **11) Do they get along well with other dogs and animals?**

In general, yes, but in any interaction (dog or human) there may be cases where another dog may “rub” a Samoyed the wrong way. It is always smart to approach another dog slowly with yours on a leash (and hopefully the other dog on a leash too) and let them greet them as dogs do. Wagging tails is always a good thing.

As far as other animals, they are inherently curious. Whether they choose to or how they choose to react on this curiosity is based a lot on what is called prey drive. Prey drive is a primal motivator hard-wired into many animals. Prey drive manifests itself through chasing, carrying, searching (hunting), shaking an object, pointing, tracking, pouncing, and stalking to name just a few. Some Samoyeds have a high degree of this instinctual/survival behavior. A dog with a high degree of prey drive may excel in many activities you can do with him.