



JAMIE & ALICE

A DECADE OF LOVE & ADVENTURE

© 2010-2019 BY DOUG MAHUGH AND VRUSHTI BUCH



To order or download a free copy of this book, see
www.dougmahugh.com/jamie-alice

All photos Copyright © 2010-2019 by Doug Mahugh

FRIENDS OF JAMIE & ALICE

To all of the Facebook friends who've laughed with us, cried with us, and contributed their wit, insights, and compassion to Jamie and Alice's life, whether in person or from far away, thank you! This book is for you.

In addition to Jamie and Alice's "greatest hits," you'll find inside some stories and details that we've never shared before, as well as pages featuring a few of Jamie and Alice's loving friends.



A few years ago, we received a private message to Jamie's Facebook page. It was a thank-you note from a woman we had never met. She told of how her family's elderly dog had passed away, and her young daughter very much wanted another dog. But they weren't going to be able to get one for a while due to their living situation.

As a substitute for having their own dog, every night before bedtime she would show her daughter what was new on Jamie and Alice's Facebook page.

This fall, we went on one of our favorite hikes in the Cascade Mountains on a Sunday afternoon. The following evening, I drove the dogs to Columbia City for a walk and to run some errands.

We went into a pet store to pick up some bones, and a woman approached us and asked "Are these the dogs that were out at the end of Middle Fork road yesterday?" She had been near the same trailhead hunting for chanterelle mushrooms with her boyfriend, and had seen us from a distance.



In 2010, one of Jamie's first followers was a young woman in India named Vrushti. An active and enthusiastic commenter, she quickly became his #1 fan.

Vrushti has been a positive presence on Facebook for many years, and then this year Jamie and Alice finally met her in person when she visited Seattle. We spent an afternoon with her, and we also met her family. I was touched by how they all knew of, and shared in, her love for Jamie and Alice.

Vrushti has been instrumental in helping select photos and make suggestions for this book, and on the following pages she shares her feelings about meeting Jamie and Alice. Thanks, Vrushti!

Almost 9 years back, my best friend shared a profile with me to follow on Facebook. I did not know much about Samoyeds until I found Jamie & Alice. In no time, Jamie & Alice became very close to me and they have always been a part of my daily conversations with friends and family. It soon became my dream to meet them in person. Little did I know, it would take 9 years for me to finally meet them, and that day came on the 25th of October 2019.



- Vrushali Buch

FOREWORD

I remember the moments I felt very connected to Jamie and Alice and in my mind, I must have told them a thousand times that I love them and that still wasn't enough. I cherish the moments when Alice sat on my lap cuddling me and slowly falling asleep. The times when Jamie chose to sleep on my lap and not the armrest, made me feel very special. Thinking of the moment when Jamie laid his head on my chest on the way back home still makes me weep for joy, between all those special moments, I could feel their selfless love.

Having my two best friends with so much affection so close to me was like a dream come true! I was living in the moment I always wanted to, for the past 9 years.

I always feel that I have an exceptional bond with Jamie and Alice. To me, it felt like we were communicating without words. I have never been able to connect to any being as much as I connect to Jamie and Alice. They have a very special place in my heart which no one else can ever claim.

Seeing them right in front of my eyes made my heart burst with happiness and I am sure it was love at first sight. Their presence made every moment perfect and worth living. I am forever grateful to have found a way to know Jamie and Alice. Even though I am physically apart from my best buds, I know mentally I am still with them and I carry their presence with me wherever I go.

As I write this, I am remembering all the moments I have shared with Jamie and Alice, places we have visited with them and I am looking forward to so many other places we are yet to go together. I am so grateful for you, you mean the world to me, my little buds! I miss you every day and I know we will meet again soon. I love you beyond words can say.

I am very thankful to Doug for being so kind and thoughtful in taking us to Jamie and Alice's favourite spots. Thanks for making it all possible!



IN THE BEGINNING



Jamie joined our pack in January 2010, and spent 9 months as a solo dog before Alice came along.

Above: leaving Summerhill Samoyeds with us for the drive home.

Right: waiting for dinner at home in Seattle later that day.





Left: one of Jamie's first walks in his new neighborhood.



Right: Jamie's first swim was an accident. He was racing around like maniac at Pritchard Beach and ran into Lake Washington before he realized what he'd done.

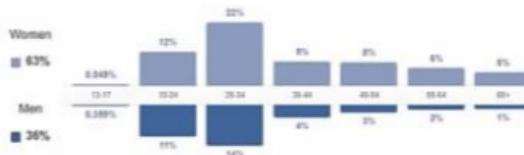


Jamie age 8-12 weeks

FACEBOOK FRIENDS

The photo below was Jamie's first post on Facebook, when he was 5 months old.

Jamie and Alice's 7000 followers come from all over the world. The charts below show the most common cities and their gender and age breakdown. Thanks for being a friend of Jamie and Alice!

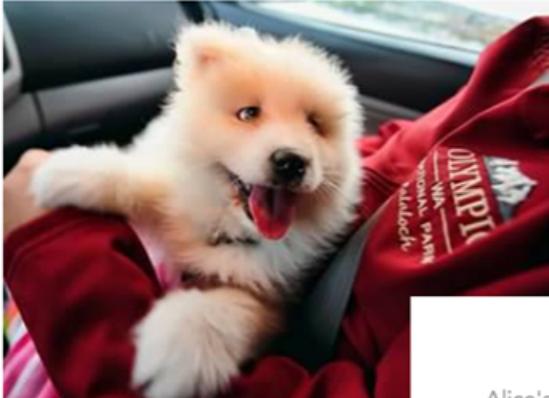


THE ARRIVAL OF ALICE

Left: the moment Jamie met Alice, at Summerhill Samoyeds.

Below: at home in Seattle the next day.





Alice's first day
with Jamie





JAMIE'S 1ST BIRTHDAY

Jamie had a party for his birthday, and after everyone left he showed Alice how to help clear off the table!





ALICE'S 1ST BIRTHDAY

Not to be outdone, Alice had an even bigger party on her first birthday.



"MY BIRD!" "NO, MY BIRD!"



So many lucky details came together for this fave photo of Jamie and Alice racing across the beach in Crescent City, California. I was in front of them but they're ignoring me, making eye contact while running gracefully. There are even a few well-placed birds in the sky behind them.



When we arrived at the beach that morning, Alice found a bloody dead bird. Jamie growled at her and tried to get it, but she wouldn't give it up. I yelled at her, but she just pranced away.

She eventually dropped it, after toying with Jamie and me for a few minutes.

Then they spotted a flock of birds in the water near shore and took off toward them. After making the birds scatter, then spun around and ran back in my direction.

I got the photo as they ran past me back to the dead bird. They got there side by side, and in the ensuing game of tug-of-war Jamie got the bigger half.

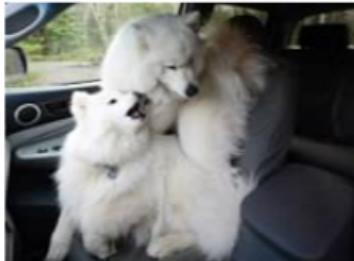


One of the things I love about that photo is that they're arguing over who's going to get the dead bird. That's so Jamie and Alice!



RIDING SHOTGUN

When Jamie was a solo dog, he always rode shotgun in the truck. Then Alice came along.



At first they rode side by side, but as Alice grew bigger that stopped working. Now Alice usually rides shotgun, although Jamie occasionally decides it's his turn. Alice is pushy, but Jamie is still bigger and stronger.

FYI for our friends outside the United States: the term "riding shotgun" is American slang for riding up front next to the driver. It originated in the early 1800s, when armed guards would "ride shotgun" next to the driver of a horse-drawn stagecoach.

ROO ROO ROO!



Jamie sings when he's hungry or bored. The pitch is lower when he's tired and higher when he's excited.

Alice rarely howls. When she does, it's usually surprisingly low, as if she's imitating Jamie. And she often repeats it several times, as if she's just discovered something she had forgotten about that's fun to do.

AIR ALICE



The photo in the top left was the first time we captured Alice in the air, at age 12 weeks.

Since that day, we've taken hundreds of photos of Alice flying through the air all over North America. It's what she does.



Left: Alice's first experience of snow, in Eugene, Oregon on the way to the Bay Area for Thanksgiving when she was three months old.

MCKENNA

One of Jamie and Alice's early Facebook friends, who went by McKenna Journey, made this painting for us based on the photo above. We drove to her hometown a couple hours from Seattle to meet her, and she went for a walk with Jamie and Alice.

McKenna passed away a few years ago. RIP, McKenna, and thank you for an amazing gift.





DOG BOY



Our friend Tom has traveled from Illinois to stay with Jamie and Alice several times over the years, when we've been on non-dog vacations.

Tom picked us up at SeaTac when we came home from three weeks in Europe last spring, and when we got back to the house we threw open the door to greet the dogs. They raced past us to enthusiastically greet Tom, who had been gone for like an hour.



Dog Boy got his nickname from taking care of Rex and Mia (Doug's dogs) in the Chicago area in the early 90s. Given how dogs tend to react to him, the name stuck.



ATHABASCA RIVER
(JASPER LAKE)



The Athabasca River is two miles wide here, but so shallow that the dogs can walk hundreds of feet out into it. The southern bank is lined by the only sand dunes in the Canadian Rockies, fine soft sand that's perfect for running, wrestling, and digging.

Jamie and Alice have been here four times, and it's one of their favorite spots. We're due to visit again!

MOUNT ROBSON

It's a long day's drive from Seattle to this view along the Yellowhead Highway approaching Jasper National Park.



WHISTLER SUMMIT

Mount Robson is the highest point in Canada, and the highest point Jamie and Alice have visited in Canada is nearby Whistler Summit, over 8,000 feet above sea level. They found snow near the summit on a warm summer day. Refreshing!



CASCADE MOUNTAINS



Jamie and Alice have traveled many places, but some of the most spectacular views they've seen were close to home. These photos are all on day hikes in Washington's Cascade Range.

ALICE'S NECK INJURY



When Alice was just 8 months old, we nearly lost her. She was running at the beach and somehow a sharp stick plunged deep into her neck. The wound entered under her tongue, and we didn't even know it had happened at the time.

The next morning, without realizing what was going on, I posted this photo with the caption "early morning snuggling." Jamie knew. A couple hours later, we saw the baseball-sized swelling on Alice's neck and rushed her to the emergency vet clinic.

Over the next few months, Alice had 3 surgeries and over 20 vet visits. When she had to wear a drain, we made her sleep on my pillow where I could keep an eye on it. Through it all, she remained cheerful and playful most of the time, and Jamie kept a close eye on her.

After the third surgery, she developed a high fever and had to be hospitalized. The rest of us couldn't sleep, and at 4AM we went to visit her.

While Alice lay on the floor with an IV pumping antibiotics in to try to stop the fever, Jamie lay across the room and cheered us up with his goofy behavior.



A few months later, we thought Alice had completely recovered. But then one morning we pulled into the parking lot at Marymoor and Alice started shaking hard and didn't seem to be able to see or hear me.

We rushed to the nearest vet, and they diagnosed it as a seizure in reaction to all the harsh antibiotics and other drugs she'd been on.

Jamie greeted her back at the truck, and we drove straight back to Marymoor, where Alice was her usual joyful and crazed self, racing around in the snow with a pink bandage around her shaved leg where the vet had drawn blood for tests.



We're thrilled to report that Alice has never had another relapse of any kind in the 7 years since! And she still sleeps on my pillow, nearly every night.



NIGHT WALKS

One of our favorite things to do is to drive to an urban area late at night and go for a long walk. The streets are usually deserted, and the few people out and about are often interesting to us.

Left: the Smith Tower, Seattle's tallest building until it was surpassed by the Space Needle in 1962.

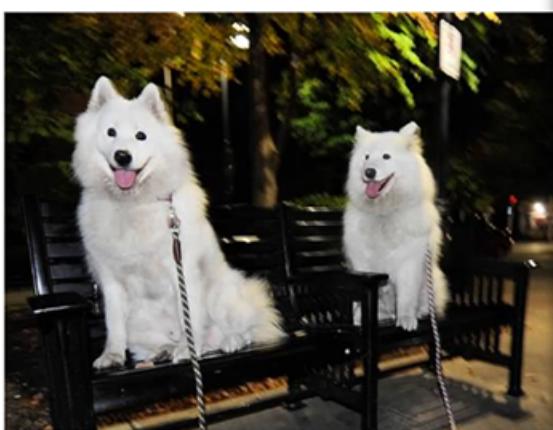
Right: when we walk downtown, we usually park above I-5 on Yesler (the original skid road) then walk down to 1st Avenue, north to Pike Place Market, and back up Pike and 5th Avenue to complete the loop.





A few photos from our
most common night walk
in downtown Seattle.







Above: Pike Place Market

Left: Nevada State Legislature building in Carson City, Nevada

Opposite page: night walks in Renton



Jamie went on many solo night walks before Alice came along, and he was eager to show her the ropes when he got the chance.



I grew up near Puget Sound south of Seattle, and spent many long days at this beach accompanied by my dog Kingo. Back then it was private property and you had to trespass to get there, but now it's a public park open to anyone willing to do the steep hike down and back. Jamie and Alice have gotten to know this beach almost as well as Kingo did!

THE CRATE ON WHEELS



Jamie and Alice have rarely spent time in a crate, but they average many hours per day in the truck. It's their comfort zone, like a crate with an ever-changing view. They ride to work with us, they run errands with us, and for vacations we take long road trips.

The photo above is on southbound I-5 near Grants Pass, Oregon.



We bought the white truck when Jamie was a pup, and they rode for most of the 240,000 miles we put on it. In 2019, we traded it in on a new blue truck.



GIPSY JET



An early follower of Jamie and Alice on Facebook, Gipsy Jet was a woman who lived in New Orleans with a Weimaraner and several Macaws and parrots. She contacted us during a road trip and offered to dogsit Jamie and Alice so that we could do some sightseeing in the French Quarter on a hot summer day.



Although we had never met her and we're extremely careful with who we allow to care for Jamie and Alice, something about her just felt right and we did it. She was a gracious and loving host, her home was air conditioned and cool, and Jamie and Alice had a fascinating time with their new friends.

When Gipsy Jet passed away the following year, her daughter contacted us and said she had often spoken of the day when Jamie and Alice came to visit. We all have fond memories of it as well.

A CHANGE IN PLANS



Jamie and Alice have been to 27 states total, as well as British Columbia, Alberta, and the Northwest Territories. In their first few years, we took at least one long road trip each summer as well as several long weekend trips throughout the year.



In 2011, embarked on our most ambitious trip ever: nearly 6000 miles over 3 weeks, traveling all the way to Atlanta.

But when we saw Jamie and Alice commiserating in front of a fan on a hot humid day in Atlanta (left), and the forecast showed highs of 90F-100F for the next week across the Southwest, we made a change in plans.

After the air-conditioned day in New Orleans with Gipsy Jet and her interesting birds, we turned north and traveled through Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas to Colorado, where we spent a week hiking under cool sunny skies in the Rocky Mountains.

A few days after leaving the heat and humidity of the Gulf Coast, Jamie and Alice were enjoying a romp in the snow at nearly 12,000 feet above sea level in Colorado.



BROADUS, MONTANA



There was nobody around when we stopped at this church on a hillside outside Broadus. We opened the truck doors to let the dogs run around, but Jamie did something he's never done before or since: he refused to get out of the truck.

Alice, meanwhile, raced up to the door of the church and begged to be let in. Jamie watched her but wouldn't get out of the truck, even with both doors open and all the rest of us out.



We rounded up Alice and left. As we drove away, Jamie watched the church. WTF, Jamie?!



Playing in the Powder River. This was the next place we stopped after the church, and Jamie eagerly leaped out of the truck just like Alice.

BEARTOOTH PLATEAU



The Beartooth Plateau is a magical place along the Wyoming/Montana border, rugged and remote and over 10,000 feet above sea level. Alice loves the rugged terrain, and she scampers across the rocks like a mountain goat.



When Jamie was 7 months old (before Alice was born), we hiked to Gardner Lake in the Beartooths on an unusually warm July day.

We were well above the tree line at nearly 11,000 feet, but Jamie found the one and only cool shady spot around, nestling into the side of a big rock near the lake.

On the way back to the truck, he found a patch of snow and pounced on it repeatedly.



SHADE OR SUN?

Alice is weird. She's a northern breed and loves the snow, but she likes to lay in direct sunlight, too, even on hot days.

Jamie always prefers the shade.





MIDDLE FORK VALLEY

Jamie and Alice have spent countless days exploring the valley of the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River, in the Cascade Mountains east of North Bend, Washington. We don't go there as often in recent years because the road is now paved and it has gotten more crowded, but we still know places to get away from the crowds.

KEEPING AN EYE ON ALICE

Alice earned the nickname "Off Road Alice" from her habit of racing off into the woods while we're out hiking. She has disappeared from our sight many times, but Jamie seems to always know where she is, perhaps because he can hear her moving through the forest.

If Alice is gone a long time and we start getting worried, Jamie sometimes runs out into the woods to bring her back.

Alice has mellowed over the years. These days, she doesn't stray as far from the pack as she used to when she was a rambunctious pup.







NOODLES & LEVON



Visiting Noodles and Levon in Montana means hours of barking at horses, deer, coyotes, llamas, farm cats, and everything else. Fun!

FENRIR

Fenrir is our hiking buddy.
We're due for another hike
soon, Fenrir!



ALICE AMBUSH



Jamie has been doing the Alice ambush move ever since she was a little puppy. He does it almost every time they're off-leash together, especially in remote areas where there's nobody else around.

We've never seen Alice doing a "Jamie ambush" by laying flat on the ground, but sometimes she lies in wait and pounces on him from above. Below, she thought about it but decided not to. That log is about 8 feet off the ground.



SEWARD PARK



Seward Park is a beautiful 300 acre wooded peninsula on Lake Washington, and Jamie and Alice go there often. It has many trails through the woods, and lots of rabbits and squirrels for barking at.

An interesting bit of Seward Park trivia: a flock of bright green Peruvian parrots (Mitred Conures) live there. They were local pets released into the wild in 2004 that decided to make Seward Park their home. Sometimes Jamie and Alice look up when they hear the strange sounds (loud murmurs and trills) coming from the treetops.

When Jamie and Alice look up at those parrots, I sometimes wonder whether they're remembering Gipsy Jet's parrots, the only parrots they've ever met up close.



Walks at Seward Park. Alice used to run up into that tree and leap out of it, but she hasn't done that for a couple of years now.



Jamie and Alice waiting at Seward Park for the Christmas Ship in December 2014.

The Christmas Ship is an annual tradition in the Seattle area, and Seward Park is one of its many stops.



JAMIE'S BIGGEST HIT



When Jamie was a pup, he didn't have Alice around and would try to get the cats to play with him at times, often with comical results. Most of the time I wasn't ready to capture those hilarious moments, but one time I got lucky.

One fall morning a couple of weeks before Alice was born, I snapped these three photos of Jamie and Fish in the kitchen and posted them as a triptych on Jamie's page. Within a few days it had gone viral and appeared on countless web sites, including a Tumblr post that quickly had over 80,000 likes, and even inspired a teenage girl to record a song about it, and many other crazy things.

Jamie's good friend Jen put "BOOP!" in a comment that first day, and a guy in St. Louis decided to put CAT IMMA BOOP YOUR HEAD on a copy and then add his own copyright to the image. I quickly gave up on trying to control distribution of that version, although I still feel like Jamie, Fish, and Jen should get some kind of royalty each time it's used.



MARYMOOR DOG PARK





Marymoor is just a few minutes from Microsoft's Redmond campus, so it has always been a common stop on days when Jamie and Alice come to work with us.



ENJOYING THE VIEW

Jamie and Alice aren't afraid to walk up to the edge of cliffs, and in dry weather on stable terrain we don't stop them.

Left: Alice at Summit Lake, Washington.

Right: Jamie near Siskiyou Summit, Oregon.

LIVING ROOM TENNIS



When Jamie and Alice need exercise but we can't go for a walk (often because it's too rainy for the humans), it's time to play tennis in the living room!

RENTON



We often take walks in Renton, both in the busy downtown area and also in some industrial areas where we rarely encounter other people or dogs.

Walks in Renton are always on-leash, with one exception: we sometimes take a romp in the Cedar River, which flows through Renton and into Lake Washington.



TAIL PULLING

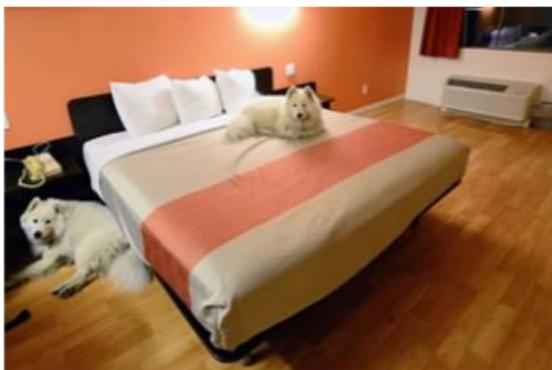
Alice loves to take Jamie down with a well-time tail pull, but Jamie gets even sometimes.



MOTEL 6

Jamie and Alice have stayed at a wide variety of hotels and motels on road trips, but our preferred stop in recent years is Motel 6 because all locations have dog-friendly rooms.

They know the routine well. If we don't fill up the ice bucket with water for them right away after checking in, Alice is quick to remind us!



LAKE OF THE WOODS, OREGON

Our favorite cabin in the woods, conveniently located halfway between home in Seattle and family in the Bay Area.



AVOIDING FIREWORKS



Alice hates fireworks, so we try to get far away from humans on the 4th of July and New Year's Eve whenever we can. These photos are from when we stayed at a dog-friendly cabin on the secluded side of Sequim Bay for New Year's Eve 2017. We could see a few fireworks across the bay in Sequim, but they weren't loud and Alice was happy.

VISITING PORTLAND



We've taken the dogs along on a couple of business trips to Portland. It's fun to get to know a new city, and now Jamie and Alice have some favorite spots there.

LONG WALKS



In early 2014, Jamie and Alice noticed that we starting taking pack walks that were way longer than usual. The humans were preparing for a trekking vacation in the UK, and that meant we all got plenty of exercise.

We had several days of over 20 miles, including a 28-mile day from Redmond around the north end of Lake Washington and down to the U District.

Alice seems to have almost unlimited energy, but Jamie usually made it clear he was ready to stop after a few hours of walking. The top right photo above is at the end of a 22-mile loop around Lake Sammamish, and Jamie lay on his side while we took some photos.



Above: Burke-Gilman Trail, University Bridge, Renton area

Below: Green River Trail, East Lake Sammamish Trail, and the beginning of our longest walk ever, 28 miles





On a walk down the Sammamish River Trail from Bothell, Alice found a necklace of dandelions laying in the grass and wore it the rest of the way to Redmond.



ALICE'S BOYFRIENDS

Alice has boyfriends all over North America. She often uses the magic paw to keep them in line.





MIKO

Miko and Cakes live behind our house, and Jamie and Alice know them through the fence and the hedge. But one time they dug under the fence and came over to our visit.



Cakes went back under the fence, but Miko wanted to stay. Jamie and Alice welcomed her as a new pack member, and they had a slumber party on our bed.

Miko's owners weren't home, so we left them a message to let them know she was safe with us. They got home late and didn't notice she was missing until 5AM, then when they checked their voice mail they rushed over to our house to pick her up.



FRIENDS

A few photos of hanging out
with friends. Sorry we
couldn't include everyone!



SAMOYED MEETUPS

There are so many fun-loving Samoyeds in the Pacific Northwest!



Vancouver, BC



Seattle, WA



Redmond, WA



Victoria, BC

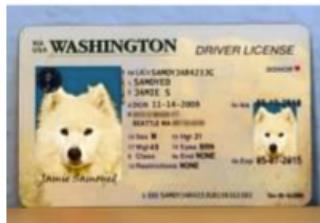
CUDDLE GUY

We don't know anything about this guy. I'm not even sure whether he can hear or speak, because he has never responded when I try to speak to him.

But he's always up for cuddling with Jamie and Alice. They've run into him several times at Marmoor dog park, and he always smiles and sits or lays down to cuddle with them.



FUN WITH PHOTOSHOP





A VISITOR FROM SINGAPORE!

Jamie and Alice have met many of their Facebook friends, all over North America, but nobody has traveled farther to meet them than their friend Joann from Singapore. During a trip to Boston, she made a stop of less than 24 hours in Seattle just to take Jamie and Alice for a long walk around downtown.



EARL PEAK

This spectacular Cascades hike was one of the longest days Jamie and Alice have spent in the mountains, with nearly 4000 feet of elevation gain.



Near the summit, we met an inspiring 80 year old man named David, hiking this remote area alone!



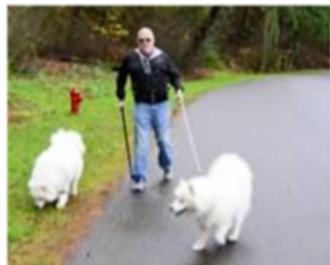
If you ever climb Earl Peak, check the summit log book for us. We're the entry on 10/18/2014 that says "ROO ROO ROO!"

OCEAN BEACHES

The Pacific Coast of Washington was the destination of Jamie's first road trip, and we've been back many times.



NEW HIPS



I had both hips replaced in 2015, and Jamie and Alice stayed by my side throughout the long recovery. They knew I was injured and were very patient with the process. The first times I walked with them at Seward Park and the Middle Fork Valley (pictured) are great memories.



EASTERN WASHINGTON



Eastern Washington is a nice change of pace from the forested Cascade Mountains closer to home. We only spend off-leash time there in the winter, because there are some rattlesnakes in the summer.

RAINBOWS

The prevailing wind in Seattle is from the west, so if it rains in the late afternoon and then clears up, we have dark rain clouds to the east and low sunlight from the west: perfect conditions for a rainbow.

Jamie and Alice have seen many rainbows!



CROWS



Our favorite spot for evening walks is an area where thousands of crows gather every night to sleep. They arrive from all directions in big groups, with a chorus of crow voices greeting each group. We notice their daily migration all around the Seattle area in the evening, even on the days when we won't be joining them for our walk.

I suspect the crows go here for the same reason we do: the lack of humans in this area after business hours. Jamie and Alice love to watch, but they never bark at the crows. The crows don't react to us, either.

SHEEP HERDING

Jamie and Alice took lessons once at a place that teaches sheep herding skills to dogs. They each got 10 minutes in the ring with 3 sheep and a trainer, and she gave us an assessment of how they did on their first lesson.



She said Jamie didn't show much promise. "You have to want to be in charge, and he seems to just want to be their friend." Alice, however, demonstrated "a good balanced attitude," bossy without being overly aggressive.

Alice watching a dog
practicing for a
herding competition.



Jamie checking
out freshly
sheared sheep
wool.



ALICE'S SISTER



When Alice was three years old, we went to a meetup in Vancouver, and Alice's sister Callie was there! They hadn't seen each other since the day we picked up Alice.

Did they recognize each other? It was hard to tell. Alice crouched and barked with her butt up in the air and then raced around like a maniac, but she does that with most dogs she meets!

Callie is the bigger dog in both photos.



JAMIE'S MOTHER



In 2018, we heard that Jamie's mother Chicklette was living in Victoria! It had been over 8 years since they had seen each other, but they seemed to know. Thanks for giving Chicklette a wonderful life and inviting Jamie to visit her, Samantha!

During the holidays a few years ago, a group of carolers came down our street. Jamie and Alice barked eagerly to get out, but once outside they just froze in silence, listening and watching as the group moved through the neighborhood.



Samoyeds have been living with humans for thousands of years. They are as fascinated by our behavior as we are by theirs.