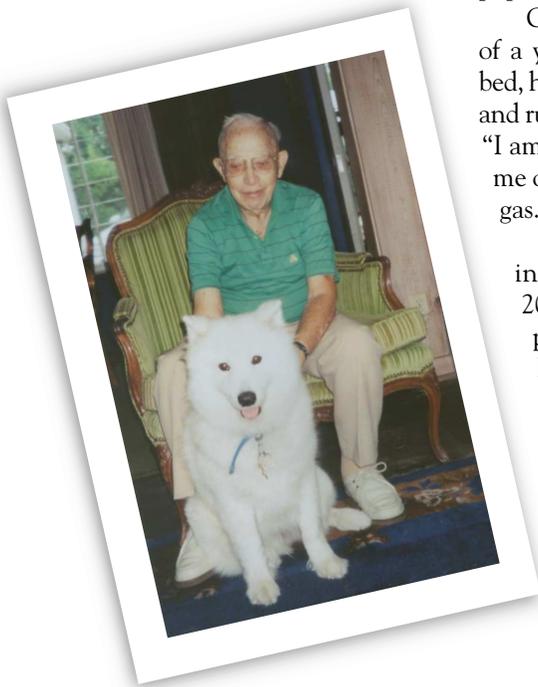


endnote

With Grateful Appreciation to the Man Who Loved Dogs

Four years ago, I wrote in this column about a 90-year-old man in Delray Beach, Florida. George Cornell, a distant relative of Ezra Cornell, the founder of Cornell University, lived alone in his large house; alone, that is, except for his marvelous Samoyed companions.

Mr. Cornell was the quintessential lover of dogs: all shapes, sizes, and temperaments. However, he had a favored breed, and since the age of six he had always shared life with a Samoyed. After his seventh dog died, his wife Harriett surprised him with a male puppy whom he named Ivan. Following his wife's death, Mr. Cornell obtained a



seven-week-old female named Posie. He was fond of telling me how the little white bundle of nascent energy crept up to the waiting male hunk—"It was love at first sight," he said.

My wife Doris and I were introduced to George and Harriet by Esther Bonderoff, another dear friend of the college, at a Cornell Club event at the West Palm Beach Zoo. Following Harriet's death in 1999, I had numerous occasions to visit George. Each visit to his home began with the requisite 30 minutes of romping on the floor with Ivan and Posie, then it was off to the dog park, the zoo, the museum, or dinner.

Having no children of his own, George yearned for a litter of pups. With the assurance that the college would assist with the whelping and care of Posie and her litter, he had her bred. Nine weeks later, Dawna Lamphere, DVM '03, then a final-year student, moved on-site with George to direct the final preparations for parturition and assist with the cesarean delivery of six healthy pups.

George's joy was resplendent, that of a young boy. Every evening before bed, he would hold every puppy, in turn, and rub their tummies for five minutes. "I am just so happy," he proclaimed to me one day. "I am surviving on puppy gas."

Mr. Cornell passed away quietly in the early morning of April 4, 2003, three months before his puppies reached their first birthday. Ivan joined the household of George's longtime housekeeper, Jean Fisher. Posie woofed her final goodbyes to Ivan and to Ms. Fisher, and, per George's request, I transported her by car from South Florida to her original home on Long Is-



George Cornell and Samoyed companions

George and Harriet's magnificent gift to the life sciences initiative at Cornell will advance the health and well being of many species.

land. The six puppies also were suitably accommodated in new homes.

On January 19, 2005, at a donor recognition dinner in New York City, Cornell President Jeffrey S. Lehman announced the magnificent gift to the university of \$50 million from the estate of George and Harriett Cornell to support programs in the life sciences and to benefit undergraduate student scholarships.

So ended the life, but not the memory nor the impact, of the man who loved dogs.

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