

# AMAL TALES

FEBRUARY 2019



## 2019 AMCA NATIONAL SPECIALTY DOG SHOW

*Sharon Nichols*

AMCA will hold its National Specialty at the Capitol Plaza Hotel and Conference Center, in the Central Region location of Topeka, Kansas. The dates are (Regional) October 27 through October 29 and (National) October 30 through November 2, 2019.



AMAL plans to participate in its usual events: table sales of donated items during the week, the Rescue Showcase -featuring regional adopted rescues and their handlers and the AMCA Auction. We're looking into possibly offering a local AMAL beer or wine as well. All affiliates are encouraged to attend and donations for the table sales and the auction are very much needed (mailing details to be provided in the next newsletter)! Be thinking of good ideas. Some past successful sales items include these breed-specific items: books, t-shirts & sweatshirts, jewelry, hats, statues, paintings, things that fit into a suitcase (for travelers), hand crafted iron dog leash hangers, dog sled, holiday items and Alaskan collector items. Anything an Alaskan Malamute lover would enjoy!



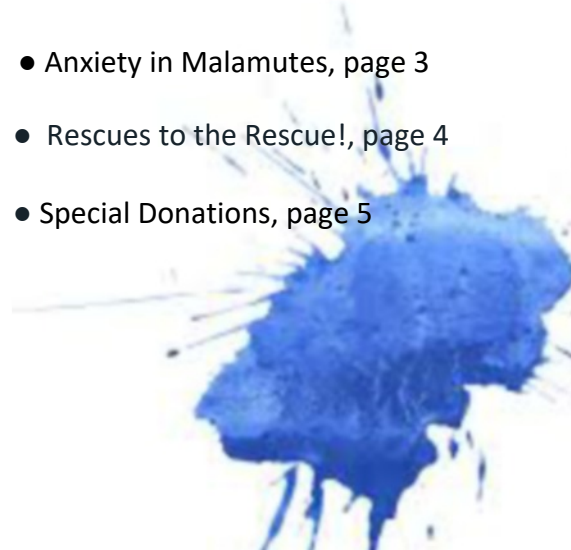
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**Alaskan Malamute Assistance League**

*We Pull For Them*



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Golden, CO 80403

Visit AMAL on the Internet at  
[www.malamuterescue.org](http://www.malamuterescue.org)

The Alaskan Malamute Assistance League is a 501(c)(3) non-profit and charitable organization recognized by the national breed club, the Alaskan Malamute Club of America. We are an all-volunteer national rescue network which includes state and local breed rescue groups, as well as individual members.

**DONATE**

AMAL is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose funding comes from donations and fund-raising events. All donations are fully tax deductible to the extent allowed by law and go directly to helping Alaskan Malamutes. To donate contact [treasurer@malamuterescue.org](mailto:treasurer@malamuterescue.org) or go to <http://alaskanmalamuteassistanceleague.org/about-amal/donate>



**AMAL Membership Application/Renewal**

July 2018 - June 2019

Go to <http://tinyurl.com/ycyl39po> to renew on line!

Name/s: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

(HINT: Use a return address label)

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Level**

\$25: Individual/Family who want to receive AMAL Tales, the quarterly AMAL newsletter.

\$100: Benefactor receives AMAL Tales plus Compact Disk with Alaskan Malamute Pedigree & Registry Program.

*\*\*\*CD Renewal - If you are an existing AMAL Benefactor with Registry CD, you can renew your membership for \$25 and receive an updated Registry CD by emailing your paid completed form (or online PayPal request) to*

[treasurer@malamuterescue.org](mailto:treasurer@malamuterescue.org). Those non-U.S. AMAL members who want CDs shipped to them should add \$10 for postage cost consideration. CD Pedigree online form: <http://www.malamuterescue.org/index.php/shop-2/cd-registry-pedigree/>

**Make a Donation!**

Please find \$\_\_\_\_ enclosed. Is this in memory of or in honor of someone? Tell us here:

Yes, I'd like to be contacted about helping Alaskan malamutes in need of assistance: \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership / Donation Payment**

Total Amount Enclosed (membership + donations):

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

\* Include AMAL Memberships and other donations all in one check --- simply designate the amounts on this form.

Please make your Check or Money Order (International Money Orders must state "US Dollars") payable to the Alaskan Malamute Assistance League (No abbreviations please!).

**AMAL Membership**

c/o Treasurer

P.O. Box 7161

Golden, CO 80403



# ALLEVIATING ANXIETY:

*Danielle McPherson*

Working dogs excel at jobs such as guarding property, weight pulling, and sledding. However, this doesn't mean that your Alaskan Malamute is exempt from experiencing separation or situational anxiety, which is estimated to occur in 10% of all dogs (both puppies and older dogs). Some signs of separation anxiety, especially in a normally quiet and calm dog are:

- Howling, barking, or whining
- Drooling or panting excessively
- Pacing in an obsessive pattern
- Attempting to escape
- Chewing objects, digging holes, or scratching walls

By nature, Alaskan Malamutes are working dogs, so performing tasks that come instinctively can help ease their anxiety.

If your dog is exhibiting any of the above behavior, several options can help soothe its anxiety. First, the malamute's natural instinct is to "work," so exercising your dog with a backpack containing bricks or full water bottles in each side not only gives the dog purpose, but helps to calm its anxiety. Additionally, you can purchase a "Thunder Shirt" which is an anti-anxiety dog jacket that provides constant pressure to calm fear and over-excitement. If you have an old tight-fitting t-shirt around the house, you can use it instead of purchasing one. The idea is that the shirt acts similarly to when you swaddle a baby, keeping your dog feeling calm, safe, and secure.

Last, medications may be beneficial to help calm your pet when you will be away or before they are exposed to stress (like riding in the car). Trazodone is commonly used in veterinary medicine, particularly in larger dogs, to help calm separation anxiety or behavioral problems. The dose for dogs is around 2.5 mg per pound per day with a maximum dose of 15 mg per pound in a 24-hour period. For stressful events, you'll give a dose 30 minutes before you anticipate the problem. For chronic separation anxiety, your vet will advise you to increase or decrease the dose every three to five days based on the animal's response.



Another commonly used medication is CBD oil. Similarly, to humans, malamutes have receptors for this medicine distributed throughout their bodies, so CBD oil can provide a calming, anxiolytic effect. The oil is an extract of hemp (which is a strain of the *Cannabis sativa* plant) and available over-the-counter. The dose differs based on your malamute's size but vets recommend starting at the lowest dose, increasing every five days until you see the desired effect. The key is to find a reliable manufacturer by consulting your vet, friends, or purchaser reviews for advice.

*Pictures: Top, a malamute wearing a onesie for anxiety control. Bottom, the manifestation of anxiety in a malamute who was confronted with a lowered door.*

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## **TUNDRA: TIRELESS THERAPY DOG**

*Judy Johanssen*

Three years ago Tundra was running loose and Boone County Animal Services picked her up. No one came looking for her, so they contacted Illinois Alaskan Malamute Rescue Association (IAMRA). We agreed to be her foster parents, but after five months and not a single adoption application, we adopted her ourselves. I know, another foster failure, but she is absolutely the sweetest dog. She gets along great with our other two mals – Franki and Taylor, also from IAMRA.

One day we took the three of them to visit my aunt in a nursing home. They weren't allowed in her room, so we visited with her in the reception area. It was no problem as it had plenty of seating. While timid Franki and Taylor hid under our chairs, Tundra was out greeting everyone who passed through. During our stay a nurse came by on her break. She asked if she could pet Tundra. Tundra laid in her lap while she sat on the floor. After about 20 minutes, the nurse got up to go back to work. She thanked us profusely and said she really needed that. Then she explained she had to send one of her elderly patients to the hospital that morning and she didn't think she was going to come back to the nursing home.

That episode suggested Tundra might make a good therapy dog. Not quite a year later and a round of obedience classes (to teach me what was required!), she passed her therapy dog test with flying colors! She now visits nursing homes and is a reading dog at some local libraries. Now the rescued is doing the rescuing!

## **STORMY: SOOTHING OTHERS RUNS IN THE FAMILY**

*Russ and Carrie Schwartz*

Stormy and his brother Thunder came to IAMRA in December 2017 when their owners relinquished them due to divorce. At 9 years old, they were in bad shape and needed considerable veterinary care (Thank you IAMRA!).

I first met them when they were boarded at the vet clinic to treat their illnesses. Daily, I would walk them and give them love while they waited for a foster home. They touched my heart. Later, Stormy returned to the clinic for his surgery and recovery which lasted about three weeks. He needed a new foster home due to issues with Thunder so I volunteered to take him. Once he was with me, I realized he was literally the perfect dog. His calm demeanor even won over my little Toller rescue, who doesn't take to many other dogs. With other fosters he was the "calm enforcer" and out in public he was a joy. People flocked to him and wanted to hug him and all his malamute wooliness. He welcomed each and every person. He was calm and quiet in loud situations, and never reactive. I knew he would be a perfect therapy dog.

I began the process to have him registered with Pet Partners. He passed his evaluation in January 2019 with flying colors receiving the highest rating (complex). When we walked into the hospital for the evaluation people flocked to him to ask questions, to love on him, and find joy in that glorious Malamute smile and fluffy, huggable body.

Stormy has never met a stranger and has brought more joy to our lives than we could have ever imagined. Some say he's a foster fail.... but there's no fail in Stormy! He embodies the "pack mentality" and *joie de vivre* that malamutes are known for. We've arranged to visit a nursing home, and I'm hoping to visit the local children's hospitals here in Chicago so they can give him as many hugs as he can handle. We are also discussing visits with some special needs facilities.





*Sylvia Bailey's DeeJay Fuzzbutt and Nikita SheRa*

## AMAL PROFIT & LOSS SUMMARY

*October 1, 2018 - December 31, 2018*

### INCOME

Donations in	
General	\$1644.00
Membership	\$125.00
AMAL Booth	\$1917.00
Other	\$4591.67
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$8277.67</b>

### EXPENSES

Christenson Disbursement	\$133.00
Insurance	\$1615.00
Other Expenses	\$713.70
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$2462.70</b>
<b>Quarterly Net Income</b>	<b>\$5814.97</b>
<b>Checkbook balance</b> <i>(September 30, 2018)</i>	<b>\$85347.92</b>



## DOUBLE YOUR DONATION!

Most Employee Donation Matching programs will match your donation to AMAL! Ask your Human Resources Department about your company's procedure. Questions? Please feel free to direct them to [treasurer@malamuterescue.org](mailto:treasurer@malamuterescue.org).



## SPECIAL DONATIONS

*November 1<sup>st</sup> 2018 through January 31<sup>st</sup> 2019*

In Honor of Ginny & Jim Kirkham Chukchi Kennels, by Grace Ann Werner  
 In Memory of our beloved dog, Allie – by Kathy & Gerry Ferragamo  
 In Honor of William Weaver who loved malamutes passionately, by Cynthia Kuehn  
 Minnesota Malamute Club Specialty Judges





## EDITOR'S NOTE

My students know that I am a malamute nut. Recently, a student directed my attention to the drawing at the left that appeared on one of her friend's Facebook pages. It's a beauty, and I was hooked! We tracked down the artist.

Syd Shugdinis is a 23 year old freelance artist based in Simsbury, CT. After adopting two dogs in the spring of 2015, she remained heavily involved in the pet community through her job as a canine nutritionist and her volunteer work with local rescues. She graduated from the University of Connecticut's School of Fine Arts in the spring of 2018 and since then has focused her efforts on commissioned work, specifically pet portraits. Merging her two passions, art and dogs, is something she hopes to build into a rewarding and successful career!

A woman commissioned this piece, depicting their two malamutes and completed in 2019, as a gift to her boyfriend. It is a digital oil painting, hand drawn on an iPad pro, and printed on 8x10 Smooth Matte Fine Art Card stock.

Interested in seeing more of Syd's work? You can find her on Instagram and Facebook at @sydmakesart. If you have questions or are interested in a custom piece of your own, you can reach Syd at [sydmakesart@gmail.com](mailto:sydmakesart@gmail.com)

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