

# AMAL TALES

NOVEMBER 2019



## GRATITUDE

I'm sharing my feelings of gratitude with you for many things—this magnificent breed we choose to share our lives with, the friendships gained through our dogs, your tireless work. Gratitude that when our rescue hearts get broken, they are made whole when we have success, for the support of my predecessor, Tina Dunn, and the rest of the AMAL board, and gratitude that I've been given the opportunity to serve my breed in a new capacity, as the AMAL President.

I have been owned by Alaskan Malamutes for 25ish years. I am the mother to a sassy, big hearted little girl who will be five this month, and the Operations Manager for a trucking company at the job that pays me in the form of money (LOL). I've been an AMCA member since 1997. My AMCA peers selected me for the 2018 Outstanding Service Award and the 2014 Christensen Award from AMAL. My first malamute puppy came from a breeder who did not health test and I suffered my first heart break with this breed when he had severe hip dysplasia. I learned a very hard lesson, he had a very expensive surgery, and he lived a very happy 12 years. For malamute #2 I found an AMCA breeder that performed the recommended health tests and ended up with a show puppy. Thus began my life as Powerpaw Alaskan Malamutes, showing and breeding dogs. The show ring has brought me many joyful experiences—Best In Show wins, Best In Specialty Show wins, Best Bred By Exhibitor in Show wins, and Champion Titles on many dogs, my own as well as for friends. I've done recreational sledding and carting and even BEGGED one of my dogs to do weight pull a few times. For me, it has always been about the time that I am able to spend with my dogs doing something we enjoy, win or loose, and the friendships it's brought me along the way.

My first experience with rescue (for a malamute anyway!) involved a lanky seal and white boy I found inside a grocery store, with a tow chain locked around his neck and dragging behind him! I loaded him up, took him home, named him Lucky, and pressured my younger brother into keeping him. From that moment I knew that I wanted to be involved in rescue. Over the years I've served on the board of 2 AMAL affiliate rescues and am the current President of Moonsong Malamute Rescue. I joined the AMAL board in 2017 as a director, moved to Vice President and now President. I don't know how many dogs I've fostered and helped place, but I do know there's always more needing someone to be their voice, and I have gratitude to be able to be a part of that voice. I look forward to working with you and encourage you all to reach out with suggestions or questions.

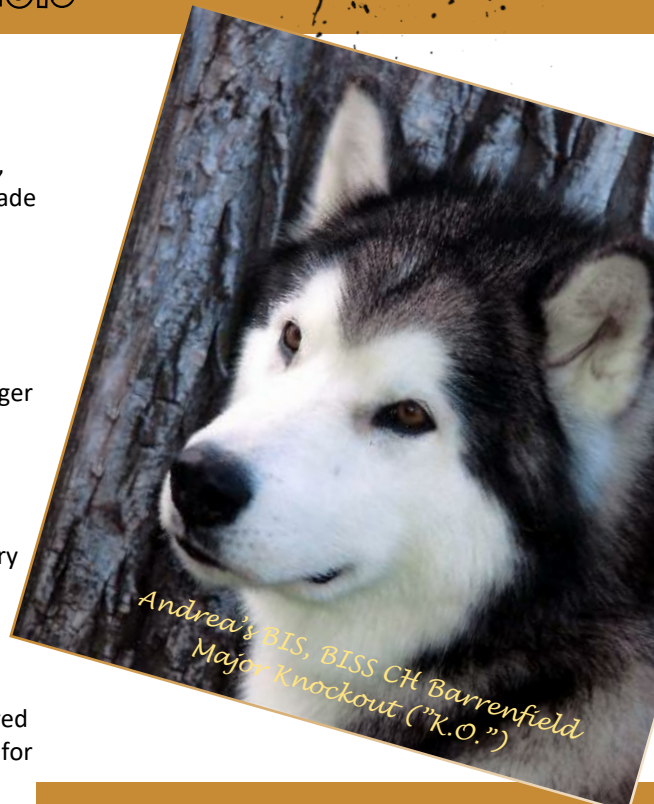
I wish you all a beautiful holiday season, filled with joy and time spent with loved ones, two legged and four!

*Andrea Allen  
President*



**Alaskan Malamute Assistance League**

*..... We Pull For Them*



*Andrea's BIS, BISS CH Barrenfield  
Major Knockout ("K.O.")*

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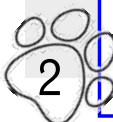
Golden, CO 80403

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 2019 - June 2020

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

**PLEASE PAY YOUR ANNUAL DUES!**

(Mail the form, or pay online)



# ZINC DEFICIENCY

Zinc is the second most common mineral in a dog's body. Its importance is second only to iron. Northern dogs need more zinc (up to 100 mg daily) than humans do (15 mg/day), probably because their ancestral diets were rich in meat, fish, and offal. Deficiency can lead to a number of problems ranging from skin problems to death, and one form of zinc deficiency (called Syndrome I) is more likely to occur in huskies, malamutes, and Samoyeds than other breeds. Veterinarians unfamiliar with northern breeds may not recognize zinc deficiency.

Dogs need "good groceries" that have a Goldilocks amount (not too little, not too much) of zinc, because unlike many other dietary constituents, zinc cannot be stored in the body. Some dogs can't use certain nutrients effectively. When a malamute develops Syndrome I zinc deficiency, usually it's because of a vitamin/minerals/nutrient malabsorption disease. Sometimes it can be a mal-digestion concern related to the dog's diet. Raw meats and fish are the best sources of dietary zinc, and kelp or seaweed are also good sources. Diets low in meat or high in processed meat, corn, wheat, and/or soy (called high pylate diets) can lead to malabsorption; this is more common in other breeds. Note that many people will suggest that a diet change alone will fix the deficiency. In malamutes, it usually will not. Syndrome I zinc deficiency is inherited.

Zinc is a powerful antioxidant and is critical for metabolic processes. Zinc influences metabolism alone, and also works with copper, B-complex vitamins, vitamin A, calcium, and phosphorous. Mammals—any mammal including humans—absorb 15% to 40% of dietary zinc, and malabsorption or mal-digestion conditions will lower the amount. Zinc deficiency can develop at any age; researchers have not been able to identify a high-risk time.

The first sign of zinc deficiency is poor appetite because the deficiency impairs taste and smell. Dogs will be lethargic (tired or fatigued for no apparent reason).

Many malamutes will develop the trademark skin lesions especially from September to January, and have hair loss and red, swollen skin around their eyes, mouths, noses, and anal/genital areas. This is called zinc responsive dermatitis. Sometimes, it's itchy, and always, the risk of infection is high. Eventually, their paws and



areas that touch the ground (elbows, muzzles) will also be involved.

Next, the zinc-deficient dog will develop immune problems. Our immune systems, and especially mighty infection fighting cells called t-cells, need zinc. For handy reference, note that t-cell depletion occurs in humans who contract HIV infection and the symptoms in dogs will be similar although the cause is different. As the number of t-cells falls, the dog will contract infection after infection, and enter a state of constant systemic inflammation. Systemic inflammation puts the whole body on unnecessary alert (with the "fire alarm" ringing all the time even though there is no fire) and all systems will be affected.

Untreated, zinc deficiency will affect the thyroid. The thyroid needs zinc to work well, but the body will use the limited available zinc in other systems first. Without sufficient zinc for the thyroid, dogs will develop further appetite problems, weight changes, and skin irritation. The poor pup will also shed brittle hair profusely, and may develop a persistent cough. And, risk of infection increases more.

The final stages of zinc deficiency are organ failure, seizures, and possibly death.

Dogs respond well and quickly to zinc supplementation, sometimes in a matter of days but occasionally much longer. Dosing, which should be supervised by your veterinarian because zinc can be toxic, starts at 1 mg/kg (2.2 mg/lb) of elemental zinc daily for four to six weeks. Owners should give the zinc to the dog about four hours after a meal if possible (bedtime is a convenient time). Dogs who respond incompletely may need higher doses or a different zinc formulation. Vomiting is the most common side effect. Note that doses above 225 mg will definitely cause vomiting, and doses above 900 mg are lethal to northern breeds.

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Submit articles, stories and/or letters to the editor to:

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## DOG SCOOTERING



The equipment needed for dog scooting is as follows:

- 1) Dog scooter;
- 2) Pulling harness;
- 3) Gangline, preferably with built in bungee;
- 4) Some sort of system to keep the gangline from tangling under the front tire; and
- 5) Neckline if you are running more than one dog.

If possible, meet up with some people/dogs that are experienced with dog scooting. Many areas have dog scooter clubs. Before you invest in a scooter, it is best to test out your dogs to see if they are interested in mushing. Generally the ones that drag you around on the leash and have excess energy are the naturals. It might take more training and encouragement to get the couch potatoes into the sport. Particularly when starting out, it is helpful to have another team of dogs to run ahead of your team to incentivize them to continue down the trail. If another team is unavailable, a favorite person on a bike riding ahead will get them moving in the right direction.

Make safety a priority. When using a new or borrowed scooter, always test it out without the dogs attached. The brakes and handling vary scooter to scooter. No matter how sedate the trail, always wear a helmet and gloves. One of my friends sustained a concussion when a rabbit darted across the trail and her high prey drive dogs decided to go after it. Spending time doing ground work training with your dogs will make scooting safer and more enjoyable. The dogs need to listen to you and not just blast down the trail.

Being out in nature and riding down the trail with the dogs working as their ancestors were selectively bred to do is amazing. My dogs and I always are happier after a scooter run. Then the dogs come home and take a long nap. It is wonderful.

If you really fall for the sport, there are dryland races that include scooter classes for one and two dogs. Since Malamutes are freighting dogs, they are not likely to win the race, but it is fun to participate. Having an upcoming race also encourages you to train on a consistent basis.

*Miranda Murdoch*

Like many of you, I fantasized about mushing with a large team of fantastically groomed Malamutes through a picturesque snowy landscape. Then reality set in. I live south of the Mason Dixon line in an area that only sees snow a few times a year. Neither my work schedule nor budget allow for a large team of Malamutes. Ten years ago, when I was introduced to the sport of dog scooting, my mushing dream came true without acquiring more dogs or moving to a snowy climate.

A dog scooter is a two wheeled kick scooter, like a kid's scooter on steroids with all terrain tires. Unlike the scooters that people use in urban cities to get around, dog scooters are not motorized. The dogs, and sometimes the humans, provide the power. Depending on the terrain, one or two Malamutes easily can pull a person on a dog scooter.



*Our author reminds you that the mushers in the pictures should wear helmets and gloves.*

*“Do as I say, not as I do.”*



# ZIPPY ZING-RICH DINNER

## Ingredients

- 1 tbsp. coconut oil
- 1 lb. boneless, skinless chicken breast
- 1 cup quinoa
- 1 cup green beans
- 1 cup beets
- 1/2 cup canned pumpkin
- 2 zucchinis (chopped)
- 1 scant teaspoonful kelp

- Cook the quinoa
- Saute the chicken in the coconut oil
- Add the vegetables and cook for 10 to 15 minutes
- Stir in the quinoa and kelp
- Feed approximately ½ cup per 25 pounds of dog weight
- Keeps for about five days in the refrigerator



## SPECIAL DONATIONS

August 1, 2019 through October 31, 2019

In on-going support of the Christenson Award – by Norm Pomerance



## AMAL PROFIT & LOSS SUMMARY

July 1, 2019 through September 30, 2019

### INCOME

Donations in	
General	\$1917.29
Membership	\$198.00
Other	\$160.54

**TOTAL INCOME \$2275.83**

### EXPENSES

Newsletter	\$248.87
Insurance	2272
Taxes	500
Other	395

**TOTAL EXPENSES \$3415.87**

**Quarterly Net Income (\$1140.04)**

**Checkbook balance (\$83912.72)**  
September 30, 2019)



**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).





## AMAL at the 2019 AMCA National Specialty Show

*Sharon Nichols*

This year's AMCA National Specialty Show was held in Topeka, KS at the Capitol Plaza Hotel Topeka. Chairperson Jan Croft ran the events smoothly. It was well entered (about 280 dogs) and international attendees were there from Australia, Canada, England, Israel, Mexico, South Africa, South America, and Spain (please forgive me if I missed any). You can find the show results here:

<http://www.onofrio.com/excepgm/wbsrbred?wtsrk1=ALAA1229573ALA>. The dogs were exquisite, and as you'll see from the images, there were many happy faces!



AMAL had no affiliates with adopters who were able to participate in our Rescue Showcase this year—we are hoping for participation at next year's event! We provided posters that reflected many rescue dog successes from some of our affiliates for over the year. AMAL highlighted Illinois Alaskan Malamute Rescue (IAMRA) as they proudly celebrated their 900<sup>th</sup> rescue adoption this year as a male named Max found a forever home. Sharon Huston was the creative designer and implementor behind the posters. Thanks go out to her for such great results!



AMAL made sales from the AMAL table and the AMCA Silent Auction. We had a corner spot in the ballroom show ring location with several tables. Tanja Gube, Andrea Allen, Paul Ganci, and Sharon Nichols "manned" the booth over the course of the week. Best sales items included a tack box and dog sled (from silent auction); assorted framed photos and paintings of wolves and malamutes; spray bottles; t-shirts; sweatshirts; ornaments; and breed information books. AMAL appreciates all the generous item donations (and candy for the volunteers) received for this annual fundraiser! *Note: An estate donated a box of books, AMCA annuals, and collector comic books to AMAL, but it disappeared the first night. It was so sad to have this happen...* The Silent Auction was new this year – a row of tables was setup on the far wall of the show area and items were listed for silent bidding on a per day of for up to the entire duration of the show. The AMCA Banquet capped the week on Friday.



AMCA will hold the 2020 National Specialty Show at Linn County Fair and Expo Center, in Albany, Oregon October 18-24<sup>th</sup>. Find information here:

<http://alaskanmalamute.org/events/national/2020-national-specialty/>. Sharon Weston is the Show Chairperson. Hope to see you there!





Sharon Huston's Malamute Rescue Success Posters

Please enjoy the overview of the 2019 National Specialty in Topka, KS in this newsletter. It was a wonderful time, and I encourage you all to attend a National if you are ever able, there's nothing quite like it!

While AMAL didn't have any dogs to participate in the rescue parade, Sharon Nichols and Sharon Huston did a fantastic job putting together boards of our affiliates successes this last year, one of which was IAMRA celebrating their 900th adoption! Congratulations to the IAMRA team and thank you to the Sharons for putting the boards together.

**PRESIDENT!**  
**SPECIAL THANKS FROM AMAL'S**

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