

AMAL TALES

MAY 2020



HELLO AMAL MEMBERS!

What a world we're IN! I hope that you all have been able to stay healthy, safe and sane as the world navigates our current challenges and we all learn what "normal" looks like for the day. Fortunately, I work in the trucking industry, so my job has gotten busier with current conditions. While most days I'm flat-out from 0430 to 2100, I am proud to be part of an industry that has kept people in need supplied, and immensely grateful to still be gainfully employed. My heart goes out to those who have lost loved ones and their income through the COVID pandemic. I sincerely hope that you have been able to find the inner strength and emotional support that you've needed through these trying times.

The changes have raised the level of rescue efforts required from our affiliates. Many shelters and boarding facilities are closed; crossing state borders is often restricted; and fundraising is EVEN MORE challenging. It feels like the chips have been stacked against these dogs in need and affiliates have had to work harder to find solutions. As restrictions begin to ease, dogs that families adopt while bored in quarantine may be dumped as people head back to work and lose interest. With puppy mill dogs cropping up, we are bound to see more dogs in the system and flooding rescue. Please remember you can support your local affiliates in ways other than a monetary donation (even though it's greatly needed and appreciated!). Do you have a passion for photography? Pictures of foster pups are ALWAYS needed! Do you have a way with words and research? AMAL is ALWAYS looking for new newsletter content! Offer to write some doggie profiles for affiliates! Are you still at home with extra time on your hands? Offer to call shelters during business hours to gather information on dogs they have at their facility. Springtime is upon us and with it comes shedding season! Grooming helps a dog look and feel so much better and walking is ALWAYS needed—what a way to social distance!

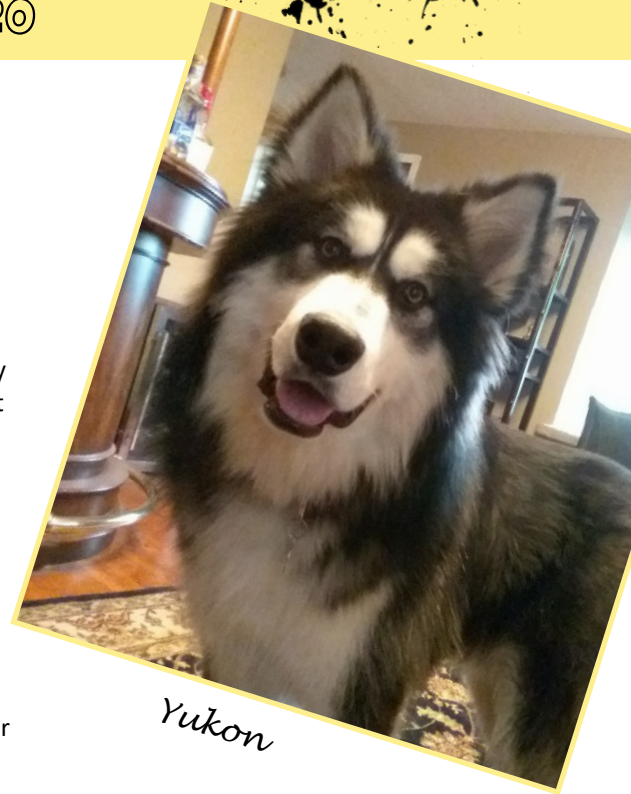
Life can seem discouraging with so many activities canceled for the foreseeable future. Concerts, parades, vacations, graduations, sporting events. I mean, they are canceling dog shows and dog show people are DIEHARDS; they will show in the WORST conditions you can imagine! Springtime is a period of new beginnings. I encourage you to use extra time you may have to reflect on the things that are TRULY important in our lives (my daughter has had SO MUCH time to reflect she has decided we MUST be vegetarians so no animals are hurt, and I have been forced to become a closet meat eater LOL). As we start to plug back into the rat race let's remember the value of our "in person" interactions and keep things a little more personal and kind. Take care of you and your loved ones, and as always, THANK YOU for your support of rescue!

*Andrea Allen
President*



Alaskan Malamute Assistance League

We Pull For Them



Yukon

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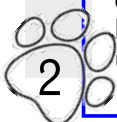
Golden, CO 80403

Visit AMAL on the Internet at
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 or go to <http://alaskanmalamuteassistanceleague.org/about-amal/donate>



AMAL Membership Application/Renewal

July 2019 - June 2020

To renew online, go to

<https://www.malamuterescue.org/index.php/membership/>

Name/s: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
(HINT: Use a return address label)

Country: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

MEMBERSHIP LEVEL

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

____ \$100: Benefactor

Please note that the Alaskan Malamute Pedigree & Registry Program is currently being moved to an online program. The Compact Disk is no longer available.

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!).

Mail to:

AMAL Membership
C/o Treasurer
P.O. Box 7161
Golden, CO 80403

Please pay YOUR ANNUAL DUES!

(Mail the form, or pay online)



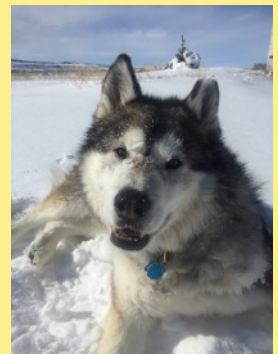


Sylvia Bailey's DeeJay (who came from the Montana rescue), just up from a nap.

FAREWELL, DAWSON, TREASURED MONTANA MAL

Andy and Niki Tischhauser notified us that Dawson, the Montana Mal that they fostered, then adopted, passed away suddenly on April 25, 2020. He was doing well and still continuing to come out of his shell even after all these years. It was a total shock and they miss him so much. After all he had been through, he was the sweetest, most gentle soul.

Longtime readers will remember the Montana Mals—200 malamutes seized in an animal cruelty case in Helena in 2011. AMAL took a leading role in placing these malamutes, with every affiliate helping as they could. Malamute mals dispersed across the country. AMAL thanks all the adoptors who gave good homes to dogs like Dawson. Shy, skittish, and in need of love, these dogs overcame tremendous neglect and cruelty. Interested readers can revisit this rescue operation in the 2012 and 2013 issues posted in the *AMAL Tales* archives on the website (<https://www.malamuterescue.org/index.php/newsletter/archives/>).



MY FAVORITE THING IN THE 'DOGHOUSE' THIS MONTH

Sylvia Bailey

After almost 40 years of raising Malamutes, not much gets me really excited in the pet product department anymore. Enter Organic Air-Dried Pumpkin Powder! Loose stool, rock hard stool, anal gland issues, this easy to use and store powder is my new favorite. Native Pet's air-dried pumpkin with apple and pumpkin seed contains only organic ingredients and is sourced and packaged in North America. Just mix with equal parts water to make a puree when needed. No waste!

Use the coupon code Native_Malamutes through June 30 to receive 15% off.
<https://nativepet.com/products/organic-air-dried-pumpkin-8-oz>



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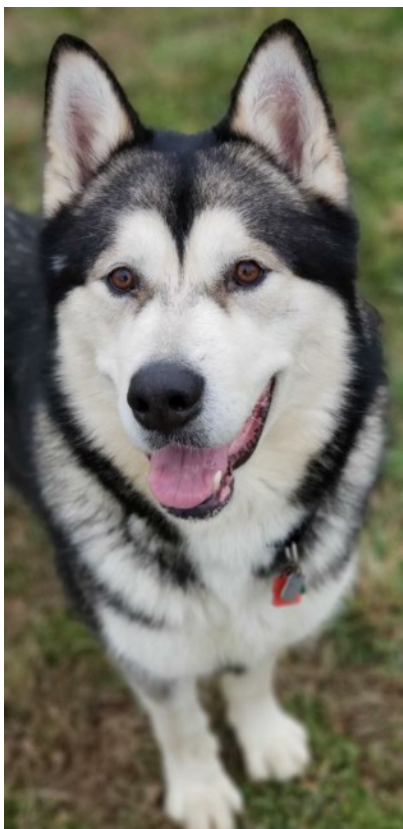
Submit articles, stories and/or letters to the editor to:
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GOOD BOY, GIBSON!

This malamute was full of anxiety and the most challenging transport. Despite being an owner surrender, it appears this boy lived in a small world on a short leash. When Stephanie Peebles, CHAAMP's fear-free trainer, first met Gibson he bucked like a wild horse trying to slip out of his collar and proceeded to bite the leash desperately and pull it away from Stephanie. Her force-free positive training response involved calmly sitting down to secure herself and tossing delicious treats on the ground. Then in a soft tone, she said, "Good boy, Gibson" as he ate the treats.



Gibson was shocked by kindness! Stephanie lured him to the nearby field where she conducted an evaluation. During the evaluation, Gibson did not respond to "sit" or "down" which was puzzling since the owner said he knew basic commands. Stephanie advised he may have been trained with a choke collar which explains his initial mistrust and frustration with the leash, collar, and sensitivity with his head. It was apparent this boy was forced to execute commands instead of being offered a choice and asked to comply willingly.

Force-free positive dog training effectively develops a healthy relationship based on trust and kindness. We were further advised to create a positive association with humans by building a relationship and rewarding good choices. At first, we just dropped treats on the ground anytime he approached us on his terms. Gibson needed to learn his actions could earn food reinforcements from humans, and that people can be a source of fun and companionship.

We made sure to reinforce any good behavior with a treat and verbal praise, "Good boy Gibson." We soon discovered he liked to chase cars, so we made him "an offer he couldn't refuse"—TREATS! When a car approached we made kissing sounds and when he offered eye contact, we tossed a treat in the air. Soon thereafter, Gibson was running to us and offering a "sit" to wait for a treat. He loves playing games to including skinny dipping and learning more ways to earn treats.

Good boy Gibson!

YUKON FINDS THE PERFECT HOME!

Yukon finally found his forever home! Poor boy had a pretty rough start. He was one of four pups rescued from the China meat market trade. All pups were severely malnourished and presented with bone fractures. Only Yukon and one other pup survived. A rescue that specializes in saving meat market pups flew Yukon to the states and placed in a foster home. The foster mom contacted WAMAL when she needed emergency surgery and Yukon needed a safe place to land.



Yukon quickly became a volunteer favorite with his goofy gentleness and total melt-in-your-arms love of a good hug! While he was in foster care with WAMAL, we noticed he had an unusual stance and strange gait, and arranged x-rays and a complete diagnostic.

He was diagnosed with rickets, a skeletal disorder caused by a lack of nutrients that are important for the development of strong, healthy bones (vitamin D, calcium, and phosphate). Dogs with rickets may have weak and soft bones, stunted growth, and, in severe cases, skeletal deformities. The vet commented that he had only seen one other case of rickets in his career. It is rare in the U.S. It may have been due to his severe malnutrition or to a genetic condition.

Yukon, still a puppy at 11 months, had energy but needed a safe environment to express it. So, Yukon needed a specific kind of adopter—someone with no other dogs whose play could cause injury and someone who would provide regular monitored exercise but without the expectations of a long-distance hiking or running partner.

Yukon found that home and here in his 'own' words he would like to tell you about it:

Hi WAMAL,

Thank you for taking such good care of me, nursing me through losing boy parts, and helping me grow strong and healthy. I love my new people. They take me on walks in the park where I get to say hi to other dogs out walking their people. I have a big yard to run around in, and the gentle slope makes my ball roll really good. The soft dirt is nice on my bones. I miss you but I like it here a lot and am grateful you found me good people.

Love, Yukon

Squishy hugs to you dear Yukon! We are so happy you found your perfect family!! Whooooo...hooooo!!

BANANA PUMPKIN DOG TREATS

Ingredients

- 3 cups whole wheat flour + extra for dusting counter
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup pumpkin puree
- 1 banana, mashed

Preheat oven to 350°F.

Mix eggs, banana and pumpkin together. Add flour and mix until all the flour is incorporated.

Lightly dust the counter and a rolling pin with flour, then roll out dough to approximately 1/8" and cut out treats.

Lay on a baking sheet and bake for approximately 20 minutes. Cool completely before giving to your pup!



AMAL Remembrances

AMAL lost two special rescue supporters over the past year. We would like to recognize these members:

- **Joyce Lowinski** (1938 – 2019) Joyce was a member of the Alaskan Malamute Club of Wisconsin and a supportive AMAL affiliate
- **Mary Stice** (1922 – 2020) Mary was a long time AMAL member and enjoyed keeping up on the newsletter.



AMAL PROFIT & LOSS SUMMARY

January 1, 2020 through March 31, 2020

INCOME	
Donations in	
General	\$1505.00
Membership	\$75.00
Other	\$137.69
TOTAL INCOME	\$1717.69
EXPENSES	
Newsletter	\$243.07
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$243.07
Quarterly Net Income	\$1474.62
Checkbook balance	\$86995.83
March 31, 2020)	



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.



AMAL Tales reached out to our affiliates to ask how the pandemic has affected them, and their responses are interesting and informative. Across the board, things have changed. Every affiliate seems to have found ways to work around difficulties, and some have seen—and appreciated—the silver linings.

Chesapeake Area Alaskan Malamute Protection (CHAAMP) currently has five adoptable dogs. Two are in foster homes. CHAAMP uses a shelter in Pennsylvania to board some adoptable pups. The shelter, although closed, is doing adoptions by appointment and CHAAMP is doing the same. Pennsylvania considers shelters essential, but CHAAMP is employing safety precautions for volunteers and adopters. They are conducting home visits virtually, something they had talked about doing at one time. They've received a crazy number of applications, and continue to screen so they match families with the right pups. Everyone seems to want a malamute all of a sudden, but CHAAMP is comfortable with the fact that some people will be disappointed. They worry about what will happen when folks go back to work.

CHAAMP's veterinarians are open so they are still able to take dogs, but it seems shelters have fewer malamutes needing homes. Maybe the decrease is because the shelters are closed, or they are taking only strays, not owner surrenders. CHAAMP has received considerable help with food and supplies, but has had to cancel their main income sources: fundraisers and events. They probably won't see the impact until the end of 2020. They've planned an online auction in May to generate some funds.

Illinois Alaskan Malamute Rescue Association (IAMRA) was (and still is) caring for five dogs (three adoptables, two Sanctuary Sweethearts) when Illinois announced the shutdown. It is not operating as usual, due to the shelter-in-place orders. Their vets are closed to routine procedures (such as spay/neuter) and IAMRA is unable to complete necessary home visits to facilitate adoptions. IAMRA is thankful that all five of their charges are in wonderful fosters, with all their needs being met. IAMRA is working hard to help place dogs being surrendered by owners and dogs in area shelters through referrals. They look forward to the day when they can go back to business as usual, and find homes for their wonderful adoptables.

Northern Lights' operations during the COVID-19 crisis have been similar to other affiliates'. They report far fewer requests for help from shelters. (Northern Lights primarily rescues Siberians, so their incoming/outgoing numbers are considerably higher than most malamute-only rescues.) Perhaps more people are adopting dogs straight from shelters, or with non-essential personnel having less access to shelters, fewer volunteers are available to post dogs to rescue, etc.

People are seeing "stay at home" as a great time to introduce a new family member and be more present than normally possible. Northern Lights reports a noticeable increase in



RESCUE IN A TIME OF PANDEMIC

adoptions, including some long-term dogs. The adoption surge at the shelter level worries them—how many of those pets will be returned immediately, or worse, when folks go back to work? Yet, they continue to screen carefully and maintain high standards. One exception: Out of necessity, they are temporarily conducting home visits outside, with "virtual" inside visits. They placed 11 dogs in April, compared to seven dogs in April 2019. In the first week of May 2020, they placed four dogs; last May, they place four during the entire month.

With so few, capable fosters, so many huskies in shelters, and so many owners wanting to surrender, Northern Lights uses paid boarding for a large percentage of their dogs. Despite a large pool of applications and approved applications, a lack of readily available vet appointments has been the biggest source of delay. "Concierge" parking-lot services slow scheduling of spay/neuters, dentals, and other surgeries deemed non-essential. In addition, adopters rely heavily on Northern Lights' videos and pictures prior to meeting dogs, introducing their own pets, etc. Northern Lights has fallen behind on these.

POLARIS Alaskan Malamute Rescue also says adoption applications were initially slow but picked up as people became bored at home. Their volunteer list for dog walking has increased, and they have started virtual home visits. If they need to go onsite (rarely), they wear masks and keep a respectable distance. Surrendering parties are more apt to be able to foster the dog during the re-homing period, and they've seen fewer volunteer fostering requests out of concern of the virus. They've received a couple of extra—and atypical—donations from conscientious long time supporters. They don't see a return to "normal" for a while so they are finding ways to work within the new confines.

Taysia Blue Rescue prioritizes Huskies, malamute, and mixes. With shelters closing to the public and animal control restricted to emergency services, they braced for an influx of owner surrender requests that haven't materialized—yet. As the economy worsens, it may come. They are looking at technology to help connect owners with adopters so they can continue to focus on the most at-risk in shelters. They had embraced virtual meet-and-greets before COVID-19, so social distancing is in place. They've ramped up training to protect key adoption counselors who are or who have family members in a high-risk category.



*Nikita, after a 4-mile walk
and some pond swimming*

Adoption applications are through the roof and caught Taysia Blue off guard, and requests to foster have also increased. The adoption rate is exceeding the intake rate. In 2020, they have taken in 127 dogs and placed 135—typically, this would be closer to even. Their training was already online and virtual, but it has kept their trainer super busy.

Although Taysia Blue is 100% foster-based, they reached out to boarding partners expecting they might need to board temporarily, but they haven't had to yet. These businesses are eager to give deeply discounted rates just to maintain cash flow. They canceled their spring fundraiser, but created a 'virtual cover charge' event and actually netted the same as if they'd held the event—lower effort level with equal return. They plan to learn from that.

Taysia Blue's biggest challenge: food. A 4-star pet food company has donated food for fosters for years. These donations ceased for now. Taysia Blue hadn't budgeted for this expense, but monetary donations from the public have helped. In addition, they've had to use low-cost alternatives for spay and neuter services, so the cost per animal is slightly elevated.

Texas Alaskan Malamute Rescue (TAMR) indicates that as Texas re-opens, TAMR will resume some regular activities. Two rescues who were in boarding both found temporary fosters during the quarantine—happy news. Over the last couple of years, TAMR had started to slow their rescue operations. Their three primary "personnel" are aging and have new distractions in their lives (like grandchildren and retirement). What's helped has been fewer dogs needing rescue! TAMR's biggest issues have always been lack of experienced foster homes and adopters. They now choose dogs that they can help and are easier to adopt. Although they run only a couple of events annually now, they have a good reserve in the bank and haven't had to fundraise in the last year or so. TAMR is not done "yet" and indicates the team will keep on doing the best they can.

Washington Alaskan Malamute Adoption League (WAMAL) reports a landslide of foster and adoption applications, absentee home visits, and a drought of fundraisers in the Pacific Northwest. It seems with the stay at home order, everyone suddenly wanted a dog buddy. Unfortunately, too many

applicants failed to read about their minimum requirements or learn about the breed. Apartment-dwelling, cat and small dog owning, dog park visiting, off leash dog-walking, "I want a Mal because they are so cute" applications inundated WAMAL. However, a few applications passed the first hurdle. Standard protocol has been in-person, face-to-face home visits (no longer an option), so they switched overnight to virtual visits using a variety of video sharing technologies to talk with applicants and "tour" properties.

No longer limited by trying to match volunteers to the applicants' geographic location, this has been successful, and they have been able to move applications more quickly. They are undecided if this will become a standard practice, but it certainly merits serious consideration. Finally, they canceled all spring/summer events, creating a hard-felt negative impact on fundraising. Trying to raise some much need funds, they have held Facebook fundraisers, had their first ever virtual 5K, and are looking forward to their 2nd online auction. Hopefully, this fall they will be able to proceed with regularly scheduled fundraising events.

Wolf Spirit Rescue says it's still puttering along. The pandemic's main repercussion has been fundraising barriers; they cannot hold or attend any events. They held a raffle and are holding a few spot auctions but they aren't bringing in the funds they need. They are grateful that adoptions are up, and that has helped tremendously with fewer dogs to feed. They are also conducting virtual visits that have worked rather well. They have a few adoptable malamutes, but most need to be worked with before they are ready. Wolf Spirit's leader has more time since she's at home, and she hopes to make quick progress so they can also find forever homes.

Wolf Spirit is slowing intakes because they need to replace some kennel panels that are damaged from a few crazy malamutes and Huskies (HA! Go figure!). They also need new fencing and must replace their 15 year-old posts. If they can raise the necessary funds, they will expand to an additional acre and separate their dogs from their horses.



AMAL AT 2020 ALASKAN MALAMUTE NATIONAL SPECIALTY

AMCA West Coast Region

These are quite uncertain times. As states and cities restrict public activities, we are planning the National Specialty Show events, but unsure if they will take place. Early in June,

AMCA will decide whether they will go forward with the National Specialty—either decision has pluses and minuses. AMAL will post the updated status on our website when we hear. In the meantime, these are the current plans:

This year's Alaskan malamute National Specialty will take place in Albany, Oregon on October 18 through 24 at the Linn County Expo Center, with Sharon Weston as the Show Chair. AMAL will participate in week-long AMAL table sales, our Rescue Showcase events, and the end-of-show auction. Find information here: <https://www.amcanational.com/>

Donations are needed and appreciated for the AMAL table sales and auction. T-shirts, sweatshirts, malamute-themed gift items, unique Alaskan crafts, dog sleds, grooming boxes and related items, stuffed malamutes, dog paw design items, leash racks, prints, and children's gift items with malamute/paw designs have sold well in the past. Bring donations directly to the AMAL table or ship them (contact information for shipments should be in the next newsletter).

Show Lodging: <https://www.amcanational.com/about> Call now for reservations!

The National Specialty is always a fun event ... hope to see you there!

Sharon Nichols

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