

AMAL TALES

AUGUST 2020

HELLO AMAL MEMBERS!

August already. I don't know how it's been for all of you, but for me the last several months have flown by. And while I am sure we all had hoped for some sense of pre-COVID normalcy to return, it seems that things have changed even more drastically. Thankfully in the summer months there are many outside activities that make social distancing a bit easier. I've spent 13 days looking for a friend's dog (who was a previous foster of mine) in the Uinta Mountains here in Utah. If that's not social distancing, I don't know what is!

AMAL would like to welcome Sylvia Bailey to the Board as a Director. Sylvia has an extensive background with northern breeds and rescue work. She first became involved in rescue in 1991 and served on the WAMAL board in many positions, including president from 2011 to 2017. Sylvia set up the AMAL Facebook page in 2011. She continues to network with affiliates about dogs in shelters in their areas before sharing them on the AMAL social media page. She dabbled in being owned by a show dog for a few years. While ultimately deciding that the messy activities with dogs are more up her alley, she did develop many relationships with the dog show community. She also learned how passionate responsible breeders can be about the puppies they bring into the world. Sylvia remains a member of the Alaskan Malamute Club of America. We are happy to have her and ask you to join us in welcoming her to our Board!

For those of you not aware, the Alaskan Malamute Club of America has decided to cancel the 2020 National Specialty in Albany, OR in light of the COVID challenges. While disappointing, we can all appreciate this as the responsible choice. There is talk of the National Specialty being held in the west coast region in 2023, so those of you that live in that area and wanted to participate in the Rescue Showcase will be able to do so at that time.

AMAL will be 20 years old very soon, and the Board has been working on some ideas of how to celebrate that achievement! Please watch our web site and Facebook page for more information, and as always, many thanks to all of you who are in the trenches of rescue work everyday.

*Andrea Allen
President*



Alaskan Malamute Assistance League

..... We Pull For Them



*Ringo (before)
See page 4 for "after"*

INSIDE

- **PLEASE PAY YOUR ANNUAL DUES!**
Form, page 2
- **Fun Facts about Fleas**, page 3
- **Shaving Malamutes**, page 4
- **Special Remembrances**, page 5
- **IAMRA's Heartworm Dogs**,
pages 6
- **Nationals**, page 8

AMAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS
President

Andrea Allen
president@malamuterescue.org

Vice President
Tina Dunn

vicepresident@malamuterescue.org

Treasurer

Sharon Nichols

treasurer@malamuterescue.org

Directors-at-Large

Sylvia Bailey, Vicky Meluso, Miranda Murdoch

director@malamuterescue.org

OTHER OFFICERS

Membership

Shel Simpson

membership@malamuterescue.org

Secretary

Mike Ulman

secretary@malamuterescue.org

General Information

contact@malamuterescue.org

P.O. Box 7161

Golden, CO 80403

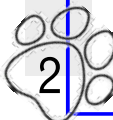
Visit AMAL on the Internet at
www.malamuterescue.org

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 2020 - June 2021

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

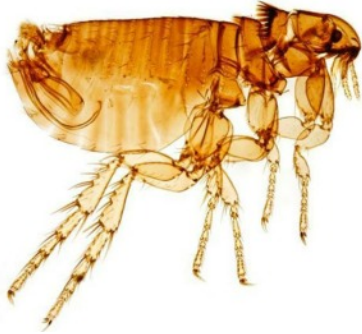
PLEASE PAY YOUR ANNUAL DUES!

(Mail the form, or pay online)



Fun Facts about Fleas

Jeannette Wick



Last year, your editor admitted shamefully in the August issue that her home—and her two dogs and one cat—were infested with fleas. Who gets fleas in this day and age? This occurred despite total compliance with a spot-on flea and tick regimen for all companion animals. She swore this would never happen again. Her veterinarian switched treatments, changing the dogs to Seresto collars since it appeared the spot-on was not working.

Welcome to August 2020, and guess what? Her companion animals have fleas again. She saw the signs early, and began spraying. Along the way, she learned a bit more about fleas. Please note that the words “fun facts” in the title are like the words “free” or “sex”; they are lies meant to entice you to read the article. There are no fun facts about fleas. Not one. But there are facts.

- Fleas are insects, and to kill them we use insecticides.
- Scientists have identified roughly 2,500 flea species, but only 15 infect cats and dogs.
- Two species—*Ctenocephalides felis felis* (called *C. felis*, the cat flea) and *C. canis* (the dog flea) are among the most common.
- Almost without exception, when American cats and dogs get fleas, they are infected with *C. felis*. It seems weird that the cat flea infects dogs, but it's true.
- When *C. felis* feeds on cats, it is much more fertile than when it feeds on dogs, producing approximately twice as many offspring after biting cats. Don't be fooled, however: Even when they bite dogs, *C. felis* will lay 20 or more eggs daily. It lays about 50 when it feeds on cats. (If you were looking for the sex part, this is all there is. Sorry.)
- Preventives work well, but fleas often persist. That's because once you eliminate the fleas on your pets and in your house, the fleas find wild animals on which to live. When opportunity strikes, the fleas hop back onto their preferred hosts—your pets. They like raccoons, foxes, mice, and other mammals.
- If you develop a flea infestation, your veterinarian will suspect “user error.” Did you skip any treatments? How are you using the topical? How did you apply the Seresto collar? In the editor's case, the cat was new to the home, and had been killing and saving mice behind the couch. She may have brought the fleas from her rescue, or contracted them from the mice. And, one of her malamutes is long-haired. WARNING: The preventive collars work poorly on long-haired dogs unless they are snug against the neck, and even then they may not be best. They rely on friction to spread the insecticide.
- No product can kill or repel every flea immediately and their efficacy falls over time.
- Even after treatment, fleas usually get worse before they get better. One has to keep after them.
- With the extremely warm and humid summer in the northeast, fleas are epidemic this year.

So, another August, another change of flea preventives. You can find a list of steps to eradicate fleas in last year's article (see page 8 here: https://www.malamuterescue.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/AMAL_August_2019.pdf). It's easy; you just spray toxic chemicals, spread diatomaceous earth, and vacuum constantly. OK, so it's not easy. Another lie. Ha.

AMAL Tales is The Alaskan Malamute Assistance League's Newsletter, published quarterly in the spring, summer, fall and winter. All rights reserved. Copyright 2020.

All articles and photographs remain the property of their respective authors.

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

Jeannette Wick

Email: jywickrph@aol.com

Phone: (703) 629-6259

The Alaskan Malamute Assistance League (AMAL) is not liable and assumes no responsibility for loss or damages arriving directly or indirectly from errors occurring in the publication of AMAL Tales. Opinions expressed by our correspondents do not necessarily reflect the standards, practices or opinions of AMAL's Directors or AMAL Tales' editorial staff.



Shave vs. Haircut: Two Bits: Double-Coated Dogs

Katherine E. MacDonald

It's easy to see the benefits of a double coat during the winter, but what about during the summer? Believe it or not, dogs with double coats aren't as overdressed in the heat as you might think.

The undercoat and overcoat are two different layers with distinct textures and purposes. The undercoat is closest to the skin, shorter in length, and fluffy; it's also the coat that dogs shed. It wouldn't be wrong to consider the undercoat as your dog's built-in insulation. The topcoat is made up of rugged guard hairs and acts more like an all-weather umbrella. Unlike the layer of fur below, the topcoat doesn't shed. Though each coat has its own individual function, together they act to protect your dog.

Shaving Isn't the New Shedding

When the heat and humidity threaten comfort (and sanity) wouldn't it be better to help your dog by shaving their coats instead of waiting for the undercoat to naturally shed? Unfortunately for your dog and your vacuum, a simple shave won't help to cool your dog down quickly or to skip the shedding. Shaving your dog might actually make things worse.

Say you were to shave your dog down to the skin; the undercoat would be the first to grow back, followed by the slower-growing topcoat. This new coat would have the texture of Velcro with a cooling effect similar to wearing wool in July. Shedding is part of a dog's natural cooling strategy; by only dropping the heat-retaining undercoat, the topcoat remains intact, allowing air to circulate closer to the dog's skin.

Grooming: Keep Your Dog Cool and Its Coat Fetching

Regular grooming is one way to keep your dog comfortable when it's hot out. Weekly bathing and brushing can help prevent matted coats, keep your dog's skin protected, and avoid long-term issues that might be caused by shaving. While trimming your dog's coat may be a possibility, it's important to avoid exposing any skin. When in doubt, ask a groomer who knows northern breeds for advice.

Miley. This series shows Miley as she arrived in rescue in September, 2018 (right). She had to be shaved, and is unrecognizable (below with Leo). During the first weeks, the veterinarian prescribed an antibiotic to prevent infection in areas where the blades nipped the skin, and an anti-itch medicine—both reasonable measures. In the round picture below left, she is six months out—notice how she is still a biscuit color and has few guard hairs. The round picture to the right was taken 14 months after she was shaved. Today, she is considerably darker.



Frasier. To the left is Frasier, who just came to Chesapeake Area Alaskan Malamute Protection. He is nine months old. His previous owners shaved him because they thought he was too hot. Frasier is available for adoption.

Ringo. To the right, cover boy Ringo who had to be shaved due to neglect of his coat.



ASHER'S PUPCICLES

Ingredients

- 1 cup frozen blueberries
- 1 banana
- 1T organic coconut oil
- 1/3 cup natural peanut butter (no flavors or artificial sweeteners)
- ½ cup plain nonfat Greek yogurt
- ½ cup water

Sylvia Bailey writes, "My girl Nikita has a few good buddies, but her BFF is Asher, a Husky Malamute mix. We created this pupcicle for a refreshing treat after our summer playdates. Asher swallows the first one whole, which makes Nikita and I wonder if dogs don't get brain freeze?"

Blend until smooth and creamy. Pour into ice cube trays and freeze. For a fun twist, pick up some silicone trays in dog treat shapes.

<https://www.amazon.com/Bone-Shaped-Ice-Cube-Tray/dp/B002HY60QK>

WARNING: These are an outdoor treat! You don't want these melting into your carpet!

AMAL Remembrances



- In memory of Denali and Vinson, by Debora Castro
- In memory of Summit, beloved Mal THDCGC, by Michael Paul
- In memory of Sophie Brown, Golden Lab mix Emotional Support dog, by Michael Paul
- In memory of Joseph Szarek and Tonka, by Joan Szarek



AMAL PROFIT & LOSS SUMMARY

April 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020

INCOME	
Donations in	
General	\$3911.32
Membership	\$560.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$4471.32
EXPENSES	
Newsletter	\$262.77
Taxes	\$500.00
Miscellaneous	61.35
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$824.12
Quarterly Net Income	\$3547.20
Checkbook balance	\$90360.96
<i>June 30, 2020)</i>	



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.



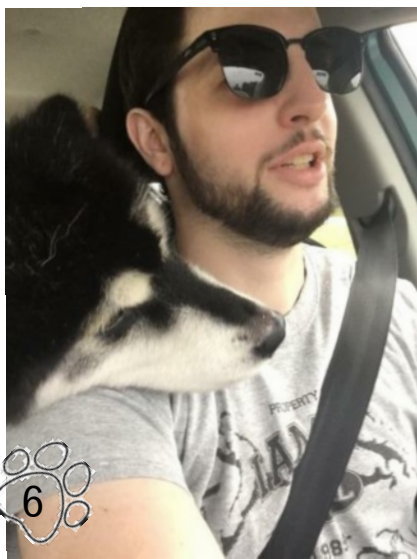
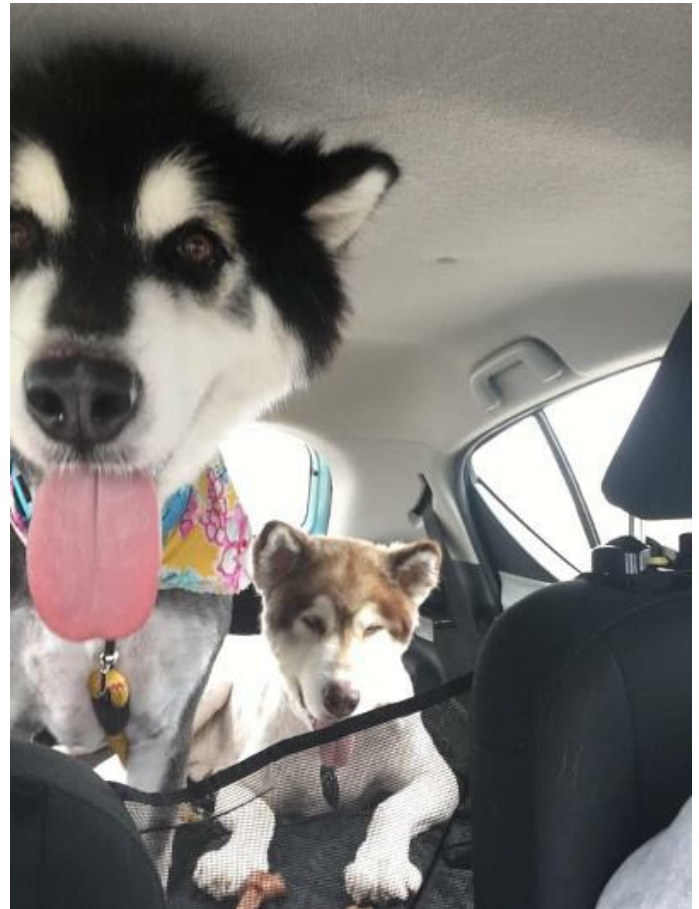


IAMRA: Heartworm Season Strikes!

Illinois Alaskan Malamute Rescue Association (IAMRA) took in three heartworm positive dogs in the last two weeks of July, 2020. They placed all the dogs on medical hold until they can be treated and receive the “all clear” from their vets. It’s going to be a long road, so any donations for their care are greatly appreciated!

#1 Hannibal came to IAMRA all the way from Arkansas. He somehow landed at a shelter down there, thin, dirty, and covered in fleas. The folks at the shelter realized he was a special pup, and they worked very hard to transport him to us so he could receive the medical care he needed...and of course eventually find the perfect home. One of IAMRA’s wonderful volunteers, Catherine, stepped up to foster him through his heartworm treatment. Within two weeks with Catherine, the fleas fled, the dirt disappeared, and he is eating well and starting to fill out a bit. He’ll start heartworm treatment soon. Catherine says he is just a big clown that loves to play!

#2 & 3 Iccus and Leary were in a shelter in far southern Missouri... Their people fell on hard times and dumped them at the shelter. These poor dogs have had little care or contact. Both were so severely matted that they had to be shaved (they are long-coats). They were kept as outside dogs and never given any preventive care, so they were loaded with parasites—and also heartworm positive. IAMRA is very thankful that their friends at Zen Dogs doggie daycare stepped up to foster them so they could stay together through their treatment. Iccus and Leary arrived as the newsletter was being assembled, so IAMRA doesn’t know much about them. Their awesome transporters, IAMRA volunteers Paulina and Zack, said that Leary just wants love and rested her head on them the entire drive, and Iccus is a mellow guy, “a big sleepy bear.”



TOP LEFT: Hannibal in his new foster home

TOP RIGHT: Iccus and Leary during transport

BOTTOM RIGHT: Hannibal being his cute self

LEFT: Leary assisting Zack with navigation



PANDEMIC:

Are we having fun yet?



With the current recommendations for all humans to wear masks when in contact with others, many malamute lovers have taken the opportunity to broadcast their love of the species.

Presented here are a number of masks with malamute themes. Above left, Carol Duncan sports a marvelous example. This hood-like mask provides almost total coverage. She looks so much like a malamute, we wonder if she has been booted out of stores! Above right, Sylvia Bailey is wearing the folded-fabric type mask, and it looks comfortable.





CANCELED! 2020 ALASKAN MALAMUTE NATIONAL SPECIALTY

AMCA decided to cancel this year's West Coast Regional and National Specialty Show that was planned for this October in Albany, Oregon due to the uncertainties surrounding the coronavirus pandemic. Updates of re-scheduling the regional show for another year will be announced when/if determined.

2021 ALASKAN MALAMUTE NATIONAL SPECIALTY

AMCA has scheduled its next National Specialty Show for the Mid-East Region, October 10-16, 2021 in Eisenhower, Gettysburg, PA. Ruth Levesque is the Show Chair. More details concerning AMAL involvement will be provided as the organizers determine plans and schedules. Typically AMAL hosts a week-long table sale for fundraising and honors its regional adopters with the Rescue Showcase and associated events.

Block the days on your calendars now!

Sharon Nichols

AMAL Tales
C/o Jeannette Y. Wick, Editor
306 Preston Road
Griswold, CT 06351

