

AMAL TALES

August 2022



Hello Fellow Mally Lovers!

This year is FLYING! This is the last newsletter before the AMCA National Specialty in Estes Park at the end of October. I'm excited, as many people are putting a lot of work into making it a great experience for all. If you have volunteers who are malamute rescue all-stars, please nominate them for the Christenson Award this year. Please reach out to the Board if you need more information. The AMAL booth can also use raffle or auction donation items, so if you have something you would like to contribute, please let us know.

The malamute community has lost another major contributor to our breed. Tex Peel has made his journey to the bridge. If you ever met Tex, I guarantee it was an experience you'll never forget. Some of you may remember his wife Patty Ann fell ill at the national last year and passed away shortly after. If there are dog shows in the afterlife you can bet Tex and Patty Ann are ringside waiting to give the kind of advice only they could, with a directness coming straight from the heart.

AMAL is interested in hearing from rescues that may be willing to become an affiliate rescue in areas with no affiliate coverage, or more need than what the current area affiliate can handle. If you know of a rescue that may be a good fit in this regard, please have them contact the Board. As a reminder, the rescue should be aware that any assistance would only be for Alaskan Malamutes.

For those of you planning to attend the national, be sure to come by the AMAL booth and say hello. We're looking forward to seeing old friends and making some new friends as well!

*Andrea Allen
President*

**Please pay your
ANNUAL DUES!**

(Mail the form, or pay online)



Alaskan Malamute Assistance League

..... We Pull For Them



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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. All donations are fully tax deductible to the extent allowed by law and go directly to helping Alaskan Malamutes. For more information, visit

https://www.paypal.com/webapps/shop/pingcart?flowlogging_id=9f42ed13149d5&mfid=1622130830814_9f42ed13149d5#/checkout/openButton



AMAL Membership Application/Renewal

July 2022 - June 2023

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

_____ \$25 Benefactor Renewal

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



The 2022 AMCA Regional and National Specialties are rescheduled for October 30 - November 5 in Estes Park, Colorado!

The National Specialty Show is always a wonderful week of outdoor and indoor events with lovely fall scenery as the dogs compete. Thanks to Show Chair Rob Pratt and his Assistant Chair Justin Scofield for their efforts at rescheduling and delivering a great show in the scenic Rocky Mountains. Be sure to allow a couple of days to explore the neighboring Rocky Mountain National Park and see the resident animals!

Find the show website here:

https://www.amcanational.com/?fbclid=IwAR2Zv4rHbPDixZPHL3X9CW0qM3_4kxrQIragdr96UXMLPBP_USeoDBaCcBw

Make your hotel reservations here:

<https://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/za12b7?checkInDate=2022-10-28&checkOutDate=2022-11-06&ratePlanCode=BTJXAV>

AMAL participates in several annual events: pre-sales of our AMAL wines, week-long fundraising at the AMAL Table in the show ring, honoring our Rescue Showcase participants from the regional AMAL Affiliates and presenting some terrific auction items for the AMCA Auction.

We need donations for AMAL's annual fundraising! Best selling items in the past include limited edition prints, malamute-related items, Alaskan crafts, dog sleds, Hawaiian shirts with malamutes, soapstone handcrafts, grooming boxes, clothing items, and gift baskets. Donations can be brought to the AMAL Table at the showring area or delivered by post between October 3 and October 25 to AMAL Donations, 11868 Begole Circle, Golden, CO 80403. Email contact: snichols@nurdog.com.

*-Looking forward to seeing you there!
Sharon Nichols
AMAL Rescue Showcase Chairperson*

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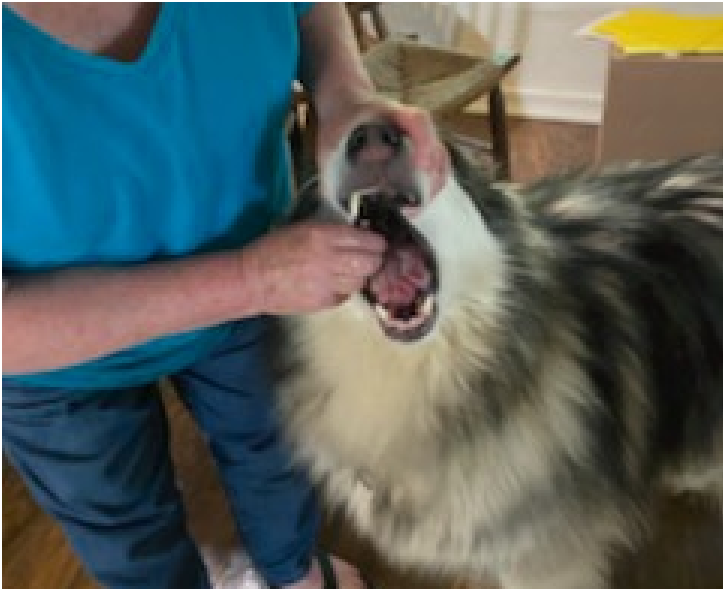
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Don't Think Twice: It'll Be Alright!

Jeannette Wick

One of the challenges of rescue is working with adopters who are considering or have adopted a dog who has health issues. In our breed, veterinarians can often treat common health problems (e.g., hypothyroidism, allergies, epilepsy) with oral medication, much of which is not too costly. But other conditions (e.g., bloat, diabetes, or ruptured canine cruciate ligament [CCL]) sometimes require injectable drugs or surgery. Having had malamutes who have had almost all of these conditions (and dealing daily with humans who have the same conditions and fears), I've learned that it's best to use a technique called "managing the patient's expectations" for best results. For the wonderful malamute who has healthcare needs, it's good to manage the owner's expectations.

The three areas where owner's have the most concern include giving and paying for oral medications, giving and paying for injectable drugs, and managing the perioperative period when surgery is necessary.

Many malamutes are easy to pill if they are not scared or anxious. The box to the right provides hands-on steps when giving oral medications to a dog, but often, the owner can simply put the medication in food. For dogs that are difficult to pill, placing the medication in a tasty treat (peanut butter or liverwurst are very good choices) or in one of the many available pill wraps and covers can help. One thing to note is that metronidazole, which is often used for diarrhea to soothe the bowel, is notoriously stinky. We can't smell it, but malamutes can and may turn their nose up at it. Gabapentin, which is used for seizures and pain, also has a distinct smell and aftertaste. Dogs will sometimes refuse to eat anything after a few days of treatment, suspecting that the gabapentin is in their food!

When an injectable is needed, it's good to know that most people who have never given an injection see the needle in their mind's eye as something that's as big, long, and pain-inducing as a meat thermometer for a turkey! Today's needles tend to be very fine

"Pilling" a Malamute

- Hold the dog's head with one hand on top around its snout
- Tilt the head back
- Gently fold the upper lip over the teeth as you open the mouth
 - This will prevent the dog from biting the human's hand; it will feel pressure on its own lip instead
- With the hand on the snout, place the thumb on the roof of the dog's mouth
- Hold the tablet/capsule with the other hand between the thumb and index finger
- Use the middle finger and press down on the small incisor teeth to pull the dog's lower jaw open (do NOT place the middle finger over the sharp canine teeth)
- Drop the tablet/capsule as far back over the tongue as possible
- Immediately close the dog's mouth and gently blow on the dog's nose
 - Blowing on the nose encourages the dog to swallow

(small in diameter), only as long as necessary, and almost pain-free. Demonstrating how to give an injection and letting the owner handle the needle and syringe is often all it takes for folks to calm down and appreciate the ease of injection.

For surgery, owners need to know specifically what they need to do (and not do) before surgery, what the recovery period looks like, and what equipment they need to have on hand. Usually, dogs that have routine soft tissue surgeries bounce back quickly (within two weeks). It's longer (six to 12 weeks) when bones need to be set or cut, as is often the case with CCL surgery. Peer support can be an amazing supplement to what the veterinary staff provide. That means having a malamute owner whose pup has experienced the same surgery discuss what happened, what was unexpected or surprising, and what to have on hand. Some simple advice about the dread "cone" is very important, as some malamutes will bang a hard cone against the wall until it breaks, others can circumvent or even burst air-filled cones, and some of the soft cones get funky fast and can be thrown through the washer.

And cost. The best advice about cost is to comparison shop. A good veterinary practice monitors the costs of medication and often knows if you can purchase medications for less at a regular pharmacy. In addition, some medications are considerably cheaper if you purchase them over the Internet. And finally, pharmacists are an excellent source of information about medication prices and can sometimes identify a generic or a brand name drug that's similar to the one the veterinarian prescribed.

FROSTY WATERMELON TREATS

Ingredients

- 4 cups of seedless watermelon, pureed
- 1 cup of coconut water or milk
- 1 T honey

- Puree the watermelon.
- Add the coconut water or coconut milk and honey and blend.
- Freeze in ice cube trays or paper cups overnight
- Makes 60 small or 30 large treats

Watermelon is high in vitamin C, vitamin B6, potassium, and vitamin A.



AMAL REMEMBRANCES

April 1, 2021 - July 31, 2022

- In Memory of Catherine White, by Cathie Reinhard
- In Loving memory of Summit, by Michael Paul
- In Memory of "Kule" - Winterstyarz Hokule' A Star of Gladness, by Karina Burger
- In Memory of Roc, by Carol H. Bowen



AMAL PROFIT & LOSS SUMMARY

April 1, 2022 through July 20, 2022

INCOME

Donations in	
General and Membership	\$303.09
TOTAL INCOME	\$303.09

EXPENSES

2021 CPA Services, Vet & Newsletter	\$1643.48
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1643.48
Quarterly Net Loss	(\$1340.49)
Checkbook balance <i>June 30, 2022)</i>	\$147881.32



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.



Dogs and Climate Change

A recent article in the *Washington Post* discussed climate change and its impact on dogsledding, a sport that's popular in Alaska and throughout the upper midwest. The author interviewed a musher from Michigan's Lower Peninsula who compared dogsledding 30 years ago with dogsledding today. He describes our warming climate's trend toward eroded winter snowpack, more rain and melting, and the potential for dangerous ice that follows. The subsequent outcome means fewer chances to harness the dogs, many of which are malamutes, and slower speeds.

Alaskan Malamutes and other northern breeds love the deep, brittle cold. But warmer winters and summers have increased the number of dogs of all breeds experiencing heat-related illnesses. In 2016, which was the hottest year recorded globally at that time, veterinarians reported a surge in heat-related illnesses with a 14% death rate—when one of every seven dogs that experiences heat-related illness dies, that's significant. They also looked at the statistics and determined that certain dogs are at increased risk:

- Dogs weighing more than 110 pounds
- Those 12 years old and older

So, heat-related illness has the same risk factors in dogs as in humans: weight and age.

Purebred dogs are at increased risk for reasons scientists haven't completely identified. Scientists have determined that purebreds with flat faces and wide skulls (e.g., English bulldogs and cavalier King Charles spaniels) are twice as likely to fall ill in hot weather as dogs with longer snouts.

Coat thickness and muscle ratio are also factors, and interestingly, golden retrievers are 2.7 times more likely than labradors to suffer from heat-related illness despite their remarkable similarities. The factor at play is golden retrievers' thicker coat. Greyhounds are very muscular and are also large. Their tendency to run even in extreme heat creates a risk for heatstroke.

Climate change poses other risks for dogs, and these are factors that people who work in rescue are likely to see. Tick borne illnesses like Lyme disease and Rocky Mountain spotted fever are increasingly common due to growing tick and mosquito populations. And the seemingly endless chain of natural disasters and the rise in the mosquito population have contributed to the spread of heartworm (*Dirofilaria immitis*). Heartworm, which is spread by mosquitoes, has traditionally been more prevalent in southern latitudes. As dogs are transported from state to state pursuant to natural disaster to be adopted and as temperatures warm in the northern latitudes, heartworm is more likely. Countries around the world that have never had a constant presence of heartworm, called an endemic presence, are reporting a rise in cases now.

Finally, the period between the last winter freeze and the first fall freeze has lengthened in more than 80% of American cities. This longer growing season means that pets with allergies suffer longer. It also means that the flea season is longer, and we all know what a joy it is to deal with fleas!



COVER DOG: GATOR

Our August cover dog, Gator, could not be a better candidate as he enjoys a dip in the pool! Chesapeake Area Alaskan Malamute Protection (CHAAMP) pulled him from a West Virginia shelter in July. At arrival, he weighed only 76 pounds but his best weight would be around 120 pounds. It hurts just looking at him, or it would if he wasn't such a happy, goofy, handsome boy.

CHAAMP reports that this year has been a long stream of nothing but shelter dogs and dumped puppies! Regardless, they had room for Gator who is with their trainer in Virginia. CHAAMP is all about positive trainers and you can tell by Gator's happy smiles that he is LOVING IT!



Tips to Turn Down the Heat for Hot Spots

1. Gently clean the area with warm water and a non-scented dog-friendly soap
2. Trim the hair in the surrounding area using dog hair clippers to prevent matting
3. Apply an Elizabethan collar (also known as a “cone”) to prevent further damage to the area
4. Maintain mental stimulation through increased exercise and play time
5. After swimming or bathing, ensure your dog’s coat is thoroughly dried
6. Give your dog the medications prescribed by your veterinarian to prevent infection and further irritation
7. Monitor the area for signs of healing, including decreased redness, swelling, and smaller lesions
8. Routinely groom, bathe, and apply flea control to prevent recurrence

A-one, a-two, a-three.. HOT SPOT! If dogs excessively lick, bite, or scratch sores, they might have or develop lick granulomas, or “hot spots.” When dogs get frustrated with an itch, they may start to lick the area until the skin becomes inflamed. This is the start of the “itch-lick” cycle that can turn into a chronic skin problem.

Malamutes start lick granulomas for a variety of reasons, including behavioral problems, hypersensitivities, infections, stress, or trauma. Lick granulomas are almost exclusive to certain larger dog breeds, suggesting a potential genetic component to the disorder. Researchers often compare the repetitive psychological behavior of the itch-lick cycle to obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) patterns. Although an OCD diagnosis for your malamute can seem scary, treatment options are available to prevent harmful infections.

Medical professionals characterize OCD by repetitive, unwanted behaviors. Human studies show that OCD-associated behaviors are the body’s way of searching for natural chemicals called serotonin and norepinephrine. In humans, these neurochemicals are involved in pain, aggression, hormone release, sleep, motor activity, and food intake; however, studies suggest that canines have an added use for serotonin and norepinephrine involving chewing and grooming.

Left untreated, OCD can lead to unhealthy relationships between the brain’s rewarding chemicals and life-debilitating behaviors. OCD treatment works to fix the relationship between these

Mr. Malamute, How Many Licks Does It Take to Create a Hot Spot?

Sarah Meade



©Can Stock Photo/adogslifephoto

behavioral patterns and chemical release; treatment supplies the brain with adequate reward chemicals and eliminates the need to compensate through unwanted, harmful behaviors. The most common therapy for OCD includes selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs), serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SRIs), tricyclic antidepressants (TCAs), and serotonin and norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors (SNRIs).

One review of lick-granuloma-associated behaviors summarized OCD treatment efficacy, including SSRIs, TCAs, and opioid antagonists. Veterinarians commonly prescribe fluoxetine, an SSRI, because early research suggested serotonin had a leading role in lick granulomas; however, recent studies point to the potential for added norepinephrine and dopamine involvement. TCA therapy, such as clomipramine, demonstrated effectiveness in studies by working on norepinephrine and serotonin receptors.

Naltrexone, an opioid antagonist, is a recently studied therapy with reports of 63% lesion improvement. Naltrexone’s exact mechanism of therapy for lick granulomas is unknown, but researchers suggested potential involvement with dopamine release. Interestingly, these medications were effective at a dose and response time similar to human OCD treatment. If you suspect that your dog may have lick granulomas, contact your veterinarian for available treatment options.



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igive.com ref: <https://www.iGive.com/AMAL>"



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