

# AMAL TALES

February 2023



## AMAL at 2023 AMCA REGIONAL & NATIONAL SPECIALTIES

The 2023 AMCA Regional and National Specialties are scheduled for October 21 through October 28, 2023 in Albany, Oregon!

Show Chair John Dewing and Assistant Chair Sharon Weston are busy putting together this event, planned to be held at the Linn County Expo Center. We'll include details and the schedule in the next newsletter as they are released.

Show website: <https://www.amcanational.com/>

Hotel reservations: <https://www.amcanational.com/about>

AMAL participates in several annual events: pre-sales of our AMAL wines, week long fundraising at the AMAL table, a demonstration for the Online Pedigree Database, honoring our AMAL Affiliate Rescue Showcase participants, and presenting some terrific auction items for the AMCA Auction. Thanks to all who make these successful AMAL events!

**We will need donations for AMAL's annual fundraising at this event!** Best selling items in the past have included limited edition prints, malamute-related items, Alaskan crafts, dog sleds, Hawaiian shirts with malamutes, soapstone handcrafts, grooming boxes, clothing items, and gift baskets. Start identifying treasures you may be willing to part with for this year's show! Donations can be brought to the AMAL table at the show ring area or delivered in September – we'll publish the mailing address in the August 2023 newsletter.

Onward to Oregon!

*Sharon Nichols*

AMAL Rescue Showcase Chairperson



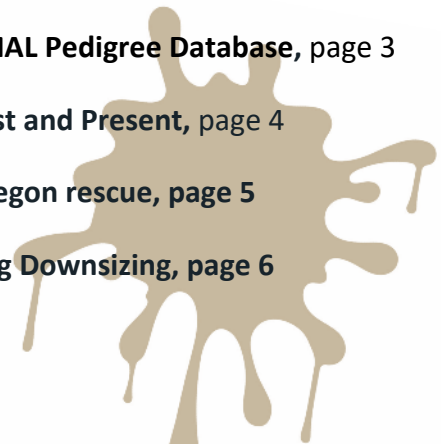
**Alaskan Malamute Assistance League**

*..... We Pull For Them*



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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. 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](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

\_\_\_\_\_ \$30: Online Pedigree Annual Subscription

**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

**QUICK LINKS FOR IDITAROD LOVERS**



<https://iditarod.com/early-detection-of-a-twisted-stomach-is-essential-to-a-successful-outcome/>

**Race link:** <https://iditarod.com/>

**Faces of Iditarod:** <https://faces.iditarod.com/>

## Heads Up: Dog Drug Poisonings are Exploding

Poison control centers across the nation are reporting more calls about dogs that have gotten into their owners' drug stashes. Experts indicate that the trend is related to an increase in human recreational drug use and widespread legalization of marijuana. Between 2009 and 2014, the proportion of calls related to dog exposure to cannabis (marijuana) placed to American Animal Poison Control Centers (APCCs) doubled. APCCs reported a 765% increase in calls about pets ingesting marijuana in 2019 compared to 2018. In states that legalized cannabis, APCCs fielded considerably more calls.

Because dogs have a non-selective appetite and often wander, they are more susceptible to poisoning than other companion animals. Baked goods made with marijuana are a special concern because dogs are attracted to marijuana's strong odor, even if the marijuana has been dried or baked. Dogs can become intoxicated if they inhale marijuana smoke. A recent study found that the most common symptom of intoxication was stumbling, crossing over their feet, and walking like they are drunk. Dogs may experience urinary incontinence (dribbling urine), a common sign of intoxication in dogs. Vomiting, salivation and excessive drooling, or diarrhea may occur within 30 minutes. Changes to their eyes (glassy eyes, dilated pupils) or behavioral changes like agitation, disorientation, or vocalization are also possible. In cases of severe poisoning, seizures and coma are possible. Marijuana toxicosis is rarely deadly, but is uncomfortable for the dog and may last days.

Diagnosis is difficult. Owners often have no idea that their dogs have accessed their "stash," or may be afraid to admit they have or use recreational drugs, fearing legal consequences. Sometimes, people give drugs to dogs maliciously. A complicating factor is that drug dealers often add undisclosed and toxic additives or impurities to illicit drugs, so the signs and symptoms differ from those the veterinarian would typically suspect. When the impurities are caffeine and xylitol (an artificial sweetener), dogs are more likely to suffer than humans as they are sensitive to these substances. Xylitol is deadly.

Dogs that are exposed to recreational drugs need veterinary care immediately. Veterinarians may induce vomiting, pump the dog's stomach, or give the pet activated charcoal to help remove the marijuana from the dog's system.



### AMAL Online Pedigree Database New Pricing Options!

The Pedigree Database is now available online and it's easy to subscribe in 4 steps:

1. We offer two subscription options that include updates:  
**Option 1**  
Annual subscription (\$30)  
~or~  
**Option 2 (best value)**  
A four-year subscription (\$100)
2. Visit this site to submit your payment:  
<https://www.malamuterescue.org/index.php/about-us/donations-and-fundraising/>
3. Register online:  
<https://www.malamuterescue.org/index.php/introduction/registration-form/>.
  - Watch your email for a confirmation of registration (please allow a few days for processing).
4. You're all set! View & print ,more than 154,000 Alaskan Malamute AKC pedigrees from the U.S. as well as many international countries!

AMAL Tales is The Alaskan Malamute Assistance League's Newsletter, published quarterly in the spring, summer, fall and winter. All rights reserved. Copyright 2023.

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

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Spirit  
WAMAL



Bella  
CHAAMP



Tabitha  
MT Mal



Rex  
CHAAMP



Colt  
MT Mal



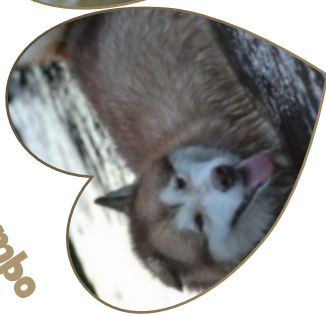
### Friendly Faces. Past and Present

There's no shortage of adoptable dogs these days, and our affiliates responded to a call for pictures and short stories. CHAAMP sent a number of pictures of pups from a puppy mill bust. Pictured here are Rex, who is four and adoptable. He fathered many pups during his "career," and Wiggles is one of them. Spirit's story is on page 5.

Wiggles  
CHAAMP



Rambo  
MT Mal



And Angela Brown reminds us that it's been ten years since the Montana rescue operation, in which 161 malamutes needed to be placed:

*March 6, 2013 ... during a wet, heavy snow storm we received 13 very painfully shy malamutes from the Montana seizure. The transporters, Wanda and Chuck, received a huge thank you for successfully driving these high risk malamutes across the country safely. They left Montana with three dogs needing to be dropped off in Chicago. Thank you Vicky and IAMRA for taking them! Three more were dropped off in Omaha for Taysia Blue—we appreciate you fitting in three more, Jackie, especially after taking the two girls with mega esophagus. The remaining malamutes arrived in Virginia late in the afternoon—Avalon, Barry, Colt, Elsa, Emmie, Homer, Nixa, Pierre, Ranger, Rambo, Sassy, Smiley, and Tabitha. We ended up with 18 inches of snow, which the dogs happily rubbed their faces in, and tried to make snow beds while on their walks. They were from Montana—they knew what snow was!*

*The first couple days were very stressful, for both the dogs and the humans. We were able to get everyone organized, tummies settled down (13 dogs with stress diarrhea all at once!) and a workable daily routine. Rambo was by far the saddest upon arrival. He was initially shut down, would not eat, would not interact at all—just laid on his bed forlornly.*

### Yo! Bob Sutherland! Are you reading this?

Bob, we haven't forgotten how hard you worked on the Montana Aluk Mal seizure. Your leadership was thoughtful, caring, assertive, and appropriate.

Without you, AMAL would not have been so successful. Dogs would have perished.

**THANK YOU, old friend!!!**

POST-NOTE: We can't thank the adopters of these beautiful malamutes enough and for helping them forget their prior lives of misery. Each had issues from literally trying to survive their environment in Montana. All of them thrived on love and patience given to them by their new caretakers. Since 2013, several of ours have crossed the Bridge, but they are definitely not forgotten. The huge team of volunteers, both from the Lewis & Clark Humane Society, and the AMAL affiliates, were beyond awesome. Without their care and support at the Malamute Village many of these malamutes would not have survived. AMROD and CHAAMP were proud to have helped those that we were able to.

## When Bad Things Happen to Good People....

Washington Alaskan Malamute Adoption League (WAMAL) was recently involved with helping rescue more than 30 malamutes in Oregon. The owner, a breeder whose situation was slammed with two serious health issues at the same time that fires raged through the state and created a Level 3 Evacuation alert, became overwhelmed. She voluntarily surrendered her Alaskan malamutes.

Those of us who care for multiple dogs can certainly understand how such a triad of unanticipated surprises can spell disaster and appreciate the fact that this was a voluntary rather than a contentious operation.

This rescue effort was different than many in which malamute rescue organizations have been involved in that the kennels, although crowded, were clean and the dogs were in good condition. Some of the dogs were adults aged five to 11, dogs that had been returned to the breeder. They were a mix of woolies and short-haired mals.

Several WAMAL volunteers were on hand to assist the Oregon Humane Society (OHS), which led the effort to transport all of the dogs to their facility in Portland. The dogs were altered and vaccinated while there, and OHS also created health certificates for dogs that were to cross state lines. Of note, the Salem Police Department and the Polk County Sheriff's Office contacted OHS the same day to help in a suspected animal abuse case involving nearly 100 cats. It speaks to OHS's organization and flexibility that they were able to handle both situations concurrently.

As OHS coordinated efforts and sent vans to transport dogs, WAMAL and the Alaskan Malamute Assistance League (AMAL) hustled to find adopters and fosters. Their efforts paid off! Thanks to so many tireless volunteers, WAMAL directly assisted 11 malamutes in just one week!



Within a short time, the numbers were impressive:

- **5 mals** entered adoption trials with WAMAL adopters
- **4 mals** were adopted out by OHS
- **4 mals** moved into the newly added WAMAL kennels at our Malley Valley facility and later made available on its website for adoption or foster.
- **10 mals** were transferred to rescues across the country via AMAL to POLARIS, MoonSong, and the newly formed rescue Solstice Song.
- **2 mals** entered foster care with WAMAL fosters
- **7 mals** remained at OHS where they were prioritized for adoption, but were planned to be matched with WAMAL fosters if not adopted

first.



At this time, the OHS web site lists no adoptable Alaskan Malamutes, indicating the dogs have all found homes or been taken into rescue. With WAMAL, a 70-pound female called Spirit (pictured to above, right) remains up for adoption on its website. She is a lovely white malamute who is shy and needs a one-dog home.

A big thanks to Andrea Allen Stern of AMAL for all of her help and support!



## Dog Downsizing: A Tough Time for Mal Lovers

*Two \*Experienced\* Mal Lovers*



*Keeshond*



© Can Stock Photo/ryhor

*Keeshond*



© Can Stock Photo/ESIGHT

Size matters, especially when it's the size of a dog that pulls at the lead. As they age, people who love some large breeds can often downsize to a smaller version of the same breed; standard poodle owners often opt for a miniature (14 to 16 pound) or teacup (6 pound) poodle, for example. People who have experienced decades of joy adopting and helping others to adopt malamutes don't necessarily have that option. Malamutes come in just a few sizes: big, large, and jumbo!

There's a saying that it's rude to discuss your health status or your money, but at some point, those issues come into play when it comes to adopting a big dog. Discussion between older malamute lovers often includes certain dreaded words: arthritic hips or knees, falls (one-in-three adults over 65 will fall every year), declining energy, care costs, and the uncertainty of when death will knock on the door. What's a malamute lover to do when "dog downsizing" is the order of the day? Meet two "experienced" malamute lovers who face that issue. One has already downsized (let's call her Addie), the other recently lost one of her two malamutes and her family is suggesting (strongly) that perhaps it's time to abandon the breed in favor of something significantly smaller. (She suggested that she could find a 70-ish pound malamute, which would be a 30% downsize from her 100 pound mals, but that did not fly with her daughter.) Call her Beth.

### **Do It for the Dog**

Addie and Beth agree on a key consideration: the need to acknowledge the dog's needs, which in the Alaskan Malamute means exercise. Owners need the stamina and breed understanding to, as Addie puts it, "help all dogs be good dogs." Addie lost her last malamute at a time when she was experiencing health issues, and she decided to take some time to determine what to do. For a year she considered the traits she loved in malamutes, and made a list of traits she treasured so she could find a breed that would work for her, and for whom she could provide a good home. In the interim, she was walking a large dog for a friend, and it lunged after a squirrel. After years of following the mantra "never let go of the dog," she held tight, fell, and broke her clavicle. Beth laughed and said when she adopted her last female malamute, the dog saw a squirrel and took off down a short, steep hill. Beth held on and ran/was dragged directly into a 6-foot chain-link fence. She had the imprint of the chain-link on her face for two weeks.

### **Make a List**

Addie said that she considered prospective breeds' traits including its "pull" and small prey drive, areas where she considered less to be more. She also preferred an older dog, not a puppy. Someone suggested she look at Keeshonds. Keeshonds weigh between 33 and 44 pounds. Addie found them too frou-frou, and Beth concurred that frou-frou was definitely on the "no" list. As an aside, it's critical to note that while size matters, some smaller dogs are as labor intense as malamutes, so looking at the breed's entire profile is essential. For Beth, the list will include little to no barking and the propensity to be attentive companions.

## *Finnish Lapphund*



*When downsizing,  
owners need the  
stamina and breed  
understanding to “help  
all dogs be good dogs.”*

### **You'll Know**

Addie said that she finally found her downsized dog when she attended a dog show and saw a woman walking a small dog resembling a malamute. Energized by the sight, she ran after the woman. The dog was a Finnish Lapphund. At home, her research revealed that this reindeer-herding breed is calm, requires moderate exercise, and grows to 33 to 53 pounds. Like the malamute, this breed is thousands of years old. Addie adopted Yona (pictured page 6, top), and reports that her coat is structured like a malamute's, with an undercoat and a top coat—and denser than that of any malamute she ever saw.

Beth met an interesting breed one evening in a parking lot. The parking lot is a stopping point for one of the dog buses that run dogs up the east coast from states that have too many adoptable dogs to those that have few. The bus attendants were walking dogs, and as Beth returned to her car after running an errand, a small malamute-like dog poked its head out of a car window. She visited for a while before the owner—a volunteer with a local mixed breed rescue—returned. He told her the dog was an Alaskan Klee Kai. This breed is relatively new, originating in the 1970s. These purebreds weigh in at 15 to 22 pounds. While this breed is smaller than the Alaskan Malamute, it does have one trait in common: these dogs can be stubborn. Hmmm...

### **Ca-CHING!**

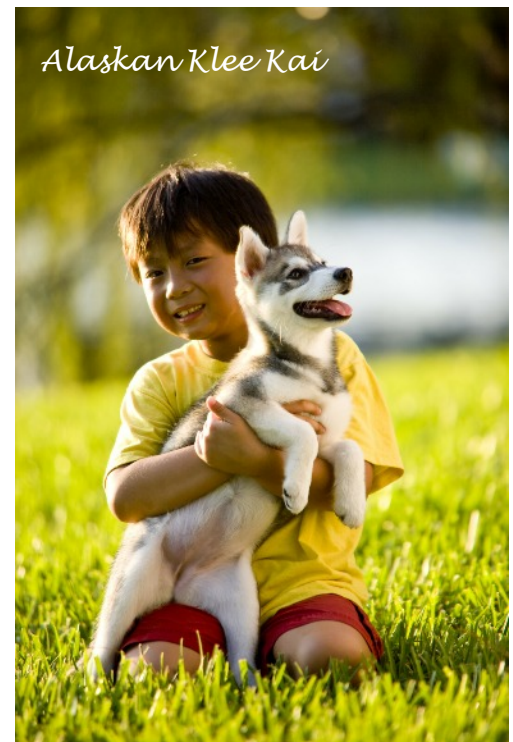
Cost is also an issue, and for many of us who have worked in rescue, the idea of buying a dog from a breeder is foreign. Yet that may be the only option for Finnish Lapphunds and Alaskan Klee Kais. These dogs rarely appear on rescue sites.

### **Make Arrangements**

Finally, we all need to think about what will happen if you become unable to care for the dog for any reason. Older adopters should ensure they have two kinds of care planned: emergency and permanent. Friends and family may be able to help in emergencies, as can hired pet sitters. These good Samaritans need easy access to information about the dog's routine and veterinary contacts.

Naming a permanent caregiver in the event you become unable to care for the dog requires careful thought. Often, a friend or family member will be happy to take the dog, but it's best to plan ahead. Owners must be sure to select people who know the dog's personality, quirks, and needs.

With age, older adopters who have no designated permanent caregiver should leave detailed instructions to emergency caregivers or estate attorneys that describe how to re-home the dog. Many adoption agreements include clauses requiring the dog to be returned to breeder's or rescue's care. Authorizing funds from the owner's estate for pets in a will or trust is also a smart move.



*Alaskan Klee Kai*

© Can Stock Photo/goldenKB



*Alaskan Klee Kai*



## AMAL REMEMBRANCES

October 1 - December 31, 2022

- In Memory of her boy, Daniel - Snobuc's Quantum of Solace BN, CD, RI, by Maria Dinwoodie
- In Loving Memory of Summit - always in my heart, always in my thoughts, by Michael Paul

## AMAL PROFIT & LOSS SUMMARY

October 1 through December 30, 2022

### INCOME

Donations in	
General	\$2559.07
Membership	\$300.00
National Speciality	\$1457.50
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$4316.57</b>

### EXPENSES

Oregon Dogs (vet, transportation, food)	\$6764.87
Additional Affiliate Vet	\$967.41
National Speciality (books, ribbons, decorations, food/beverages, shipping, hauling)	\$1949.60
Miscellaneous fees	\$67.11
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$9748.99</b>
<b>Quarterly Net Loss</b>	<b>(\$5432.42)</b>
Checkbook balance December 31, 2022)	\$143837.86

## PLEASE PAY YOUR ANNUAL DUES!

(Mail the form on page 2, or pay online)

AMAL Tales  
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