

# AMAL TALES

May 2023



## President's Message

Hello Fellow Malamute Lovers!

I must apologize for my lack of President's messages the last few newsletters. This last year has been one of change for me, and I don't "roll with the punches" as well as I used to it appears! I need a personal assistant to keep me on track! Alas, all I have is a gaggle of malamutes telling me what to do each day, and we all know how self-serving they are!! Thank you to those who have picked up the slack for me, and apologies for my absence.

This past week was a tough one. I got to help one of my old souls on her journey to the bridge. She was a forever foster, I knew when she came home with me that I would be the one helping her when the time came, but the knowing doesn't help the heart from breaking when the time is here. Like all malamutes, she was stoic until the day she wasn't, and it was a short 48 hours between the first indication that this might be the beginning of the end, and the actual end. Like always, it sucked. Having them a part of my life for five minutes or 15 years, it still hurts the same. I laid next to her and told her how beautiful she was, that my life had been better with her in it, I was honored to have shared the last year and a half of her life with her, and thanked her for not judging me for using her coat to wipe my tears and snot on this hardest of all the hard days.

These are the parts of rescue that make or break us, we either grab hold of the changes we can make in a dog's life, or let the helplessness win and we decide, no more, I can no longer keep subjecting myself to this. While chatting with a rescue friend, I expressed my anger at the people who had allowed this girl to get into the state she was in. I was frustrated because I couldn't undo what years of neglect had done to her. My friend said that while she too had shed many tears over the passing of this girl, it also helped remind her WHY we do what we do, and we will continue to do so.

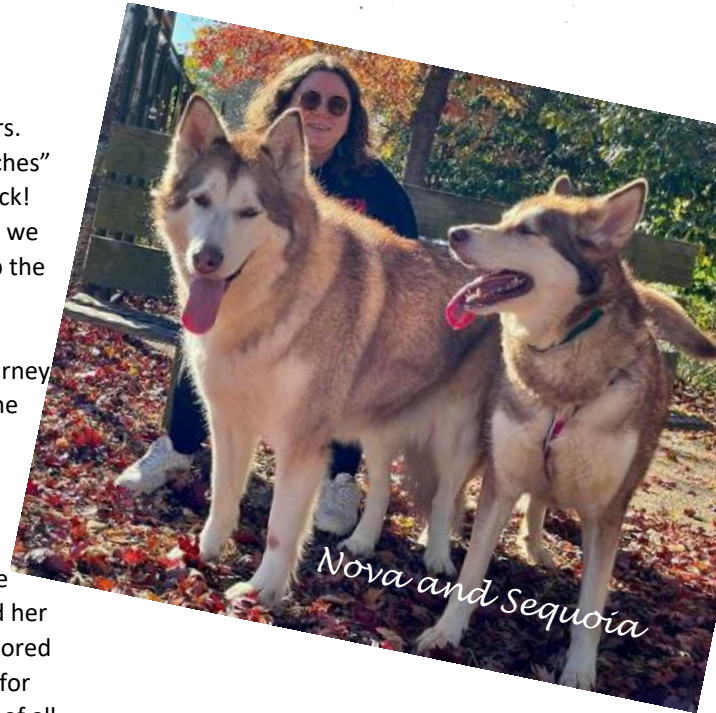
I admire and respect all of you who continue with rescue work, pushing heartbreak and exhaustion aside to help "just one more." Keep your support group close and keep up the good fight, you are all amazing!

*Andrea Stern*  
President



**Alaskan Malamute Assistance League**

*..... We Pull For Them*



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**President**

Andrea Allen  
[president@malamuterescue.org](mailto:president@malamuterescue.org)

**Vice President**  
Tina Dunn

[vicepresident@malamuterescue.org](mailto:vicepresident@malamuterescue.org)

**Treasurer**

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[treasurer@malamuterescue.org](mailto:treasurer@malamuterescue.org)

**Directors-at-Large**

Vicky Meluso, Miranda Murdoch

[director@malamuterescue.org](mailto:director@malamuterescue.org)

**OTHER POSITIONS**

**Membership**

Shel Simpson

[membership@malamuterescue.org](mailto:membership@malamuterescue.org)

**Secretary**

Mike Ulman

[secretary@malamuterescue.org](mailto:secretary@malamuterescue.org)

**General Information**

[contact@malamuterescue.org](mailto:contact@malamuterescue.org)

P.O. Box 7161

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. 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/shoppingcart?flowlogging\\_id=9f42ed13149d5&mfid=1622130830814\\_9f42ed13149d5#/checkout/openButton](https://www.paypal.com/webapps/shoppingcart?flowlogging_id=9f42ed13149d5&mfid=1622130830814_9f42ed13149d5#/checkout/openButton)



**AMAL Membership Application/Renewal**

**July 2023 - June 2024**



You can easily renew online, too!

<https://tinyurl.com/AMALmembership>

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

*Hint: use an address label*

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Choose a Membership and/or Subscription**

- \$25 **Individual/Family** (includes AMAL Tales digital quarterly newsletter)
- \$100 **Benefactor** (includes AMAL Tales digital quarterly newsletter, 4-year membership, Pedigree Database access with updates)
- \$25 **Benefactor** (includes 1-year renewal with updates)
- \$30 **Pedigree Database Annual Subscription** only (includes online access for 1-year (no AMAL membership required))



**I'd like to make an additional general DONATION**

Please find \$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed to help the Mals.  
*(optional)*

- IN HONOR of \_\_\_\_\_  
**or**
- IN MEMORY of \_\_\_\_\_
- Yes, I'd like to be contacted about helping Alaskan Malamutes in need of assistance
- My employer will match my donation

**\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total amount enclosed (membership + CD subscription + donation (can all be included in 1 check))**

Please make check or money orders payable to the "Alaskan Malamute Assistance League" - no abbreviations, please. Also, please note, international money orders must state "US Dollars". AMAL is a 501c3 organization.

**Mail to: AMAL Membership  
c/o Treasurer  
PO Box 7161  
Golden, CO 80403**



## **AMAL at 2023 ALASKAN MALAMUTE CLUB OF AMERICA REGIONAL & NATIONAL SPECIALTIES**

The 2023 Alaskan Malamute Club of America (AMCA) Regional and National Specialties are scheduled for October 21 through 28, 2023 in Albany, Oregon!

Show Chair John Dewing and Assistant Chair Sharon Weston are busy putting together this event, which will be held at the Linn County Expo Center, in Albany, OR. We'll publish additional details and the schedule as they are released. The AMCA region consists of these states: Washington, Oregon, and California.



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 demo 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. Be thinking of treasures you may be willing to part with for this year's show! You can bring donations to the AMAL Table at the show ring area or have them delivered in September (we'll provide an address in the August 2023 newsletter).

Looking ahead to another wonderful National!

*Sharon Nichols*

AMAL Rescue Showcase Chairperson

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

Jeannette Wick

Email: [jywickrph@aol.com](mailto:jywickrph@aol.com)

Phone: (703) 629-6259

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## Fostering: Science Confirms its Utility. Affiliates Confirm Shortage of Homes

A number of affiliates are experiencing an influx of dogs, fewer adopters, and a shortage of foster homes. That's the Bermuda Triangle of rescue. And CHAAMP reports accepting many dogs from puppy mills (two pictured above). One root cause may be that during the pandemic, interest in dog adoption surged and dog owners were less likely to abandon their dogs. With the pandemic ending, many of our predictions have come true. Adoptions are down, surrenders are up, and fosters—well, they are rare. What does scientific research say about fostering?

Fostering has benefits for the human volunteer. Humans who have dogs are more physically active than non-dog owners. The BuddyStudy looked at health changes associated with dog fostering. Almost half of the foster parents increased their activity by at least 2000 steps/day and their moderate-to-vigorous activity by at least 20 minutes/day. Nearly 75% reported their mood improved after fostering for six weeks. Among more than half, their foster dog introduced them to neighbors. "Failed fostering" (deciding to permanently adopt the foster) was common, and a reason fosters often retire.

Studies have also looked at *who* fosters. Most have found that almost all fosters are women, and around 83% are non-Hispanic white. Might focusing on a more diverse foster home population increase the number of foster homes available to us? It's a thought.

Fostering benefits dogs, too. Shelters are stressful for most dogs. They tend to be noisy and often, dogs have limited interaction with dogs and human, little exercise, and cramped movement opportunities. Placing dogs in foster homes can address these issues. Research suggests fostered dogs that form attach-

ments to their caregivers have better behaviors, bond better with new owners, and have fewer "personality problems."

In fact, even short stay fostering helps. A large study measured dogs' cortisol:creatinine ratios—a measure of stress and anxiety—before and after short foster visits of one to two days. One point from this study is important for the malamute-loving community: larger dogs and older dogs benefited most. Dogs with longer bouts of uninterrupted rest also reaped great benefits. Dogs rested and slept well during sleepovers and slept better in the shelter after sleepovers. Would finding short-stay fosters be helpful?

What does science say we need our fosters to know? A national survey of more than 600 dog foster volunteers across the US found that emotional attachment to foster dogs resembles attachment to pet dogs. Yet people who foster dogs face some emotional challenges. If valuable volunteers develop emotional stress from fostering, they may think about quitting. Fostering should focus on readying the dog for the next step, a "forever home." Foster families should focus on helping the dog to a better life. Dogs that are fostered tend to adapt well in their new homes compared to dogs that are not. Fosters need to know that aggression might be an expression of anxiety or an attempt at companionship. In some cases, fosters may not be able to address undesired behaviors and need frequent contact from shelter staff or seasoned dog owners for advice on approaches for behavior problems. This can stress rescue staff. In these cases, fosters may need more financial support than the rescue can provide.

The ASPCA suggests ways to recruit fosters: (1) use social media, (2) contact traditional media and ask them to help, (3) use NextDoor, (4) use word-of-mouth (talk about it ALWAYS and ask your fosters to talk about it, too), and (5) host recruitment events.



## **Penny Devaney 1923-2023**

The Malamute breed and rescue community lost a pioneer recently. Penny was the visionary and founder of the Alaskan Malamute Protection League (AMPL) which she founded in 1989. AMPL was the predecessor organization to AMAL, which was formed in 1999. We have no doubt Penny was greeted at the Rainbow Bridge by a parade of malamutes and lots of "woo-woos." Rest in peace Penny.



### **Our Cover Girls**

Illinois Alaskan Malamute Rescue Association suggested our cover girls for this month, a bonded pair that are super sweet and low maintenance but do not care for other animals, so need to be the only pets in the house.

Nova, age 8 and pictured above, and Sequoia, age 6 and pictured below, were surrendered to rescue in September 2020, along with a third "sister" Luna. Luna was not particularly bonded to either Nova or Sequoia and quickly found a home as an only spoiled princess.

Nova is the more reserved of the two, a tall, dignified lady. Sequoia, who is almost as tall as Nova, is more the social butterfly, and a little more prone to malamute shenanigans. While they are basically well behaved ladies, they can—and will—do "malamute things" like steal trash or counter surf when unattended. They love going on walks, and are tall, strong girls, but do not require an over the top amount of exercise – after playing in a fenced yard, and going for a moderate walk, they are happy to just hang out. Both are crate/kennel trained, and know a few basic commands.





## Hiking with Malamutes

*Sharon Nichols*



Active dogs and their hike-loving humans can share the load when trekking up the trail.

What to put in a dog backpack for hiking:

- Travel Sized First Aid Kit for dogs
- Dog poop bags for waste
- Collapsible bowls for water and food
- Dog treats and dog food for longer hikes
- Dog bed for overnight camping trips
- Water bottles (water bladders can burst)
- Get your dog comfortable wearing a dog backpack. Let your dog wear their empty backpack a handful of times before hitting the trail with any extra weight in tow.
- Start slowly with short walks
- Let your dog test the empty pack first
- Balance the load once your dog is ready for weight in their pack

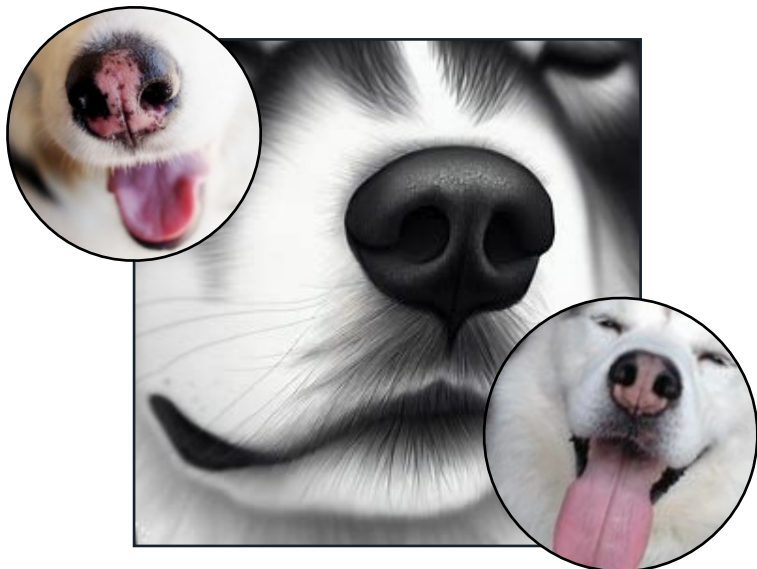
Getting the right hiking gear makes a difference. Features to look for:

- A snug fit
- Lightweight, breathable material in a bright color makes for good visibility
- Bright colors to spot your dog on the trail
- Saddlebag-style pockets
- Secure zippers
- Room for water bottles, sunscreen, food, and treats
- Durability
- How much weight can a dog pack? As a general rule, the pack weight should be no more than 25% of your dog's body weight.

Safety reminders for hiking with dogs:

- Do your research and choose a dog-friendly hiking trail
- Choose a trail with a length and terrain suitable for your dog
- Follow leash laws and keep your dog under control
- Keep your pup fueled and hydrated with treats and water
- Keep your first aid kit up to date
- Check your dog's fur for ticks after hiking

# Go have fun!



## The Nose Knows: The Malamute's Honker

*Jeannette Wick*

Everyone knows (or should know) that a dog's nose is a work of wonder. It's similar to the human nose in structure, but in function, far superior. It's high concentration of scent cells far exceeds the human's, which is why you can't sneak piece of salami and cheese for a mid-morning snack. Your malamute will be onto to you faster than a hungry bum on a bologna sandwich.

A dog's nose is so much more than just a nose, however. Its moist, hairless surface is covered in ridges and dimples that create a "nose print" similar to the human fingerprint. Each one is unique to the dog. (We do not recommend that to try to acquire a "nose print" from your dog for obvious reasons. If you do try, please send a video so we can all enjoy it!) The table to the right lists some parts of the nose, providing great words for crossword puzzles or cocktail party trivia talk.

### **Pink is the New Black**

Malamute owners, especially those who are first-time owners, often notice changes in their dog's nasal planum. Indeed, a malamute's nose will often change color. A frequent cause is that the dog has gotten into something. At our house, it's dirt. Leo and Faith have spent the last few weeks with their noses in chipmunk, rabbit, and woodchuck holes. The dirt generally lands in their water bowl when they come inside. Previous malamutes have had color changes after opening a 50-pound bag of flour and helping with some painting. A facecloth was the solution to those changes.

### **Age**

Age can cause pigmentation changes in the planum and rhinarium (we had to throw those words in there to see if you are paying attention). In most dogs, the nose will lighten with age, but in some, it darkens. Lightening has been linked to an enzyme called tyrosinase. Tyrosinase controls the production of melanin, a dark substance in the skin, eyes, and hair that gives them their color. Many species have tyrosinase, and in water

### **Anatomical Terms Describing the Dog's Nose**

nasal planum	The pigmented, hairless, beak-shaped surface of the external nose
philtrum	The groove located down the center of the nose
rhinarium	The naked surface of skin around the external nostril openings in most mammals, usually moist and embossed

buffalo and varies types of frogs, a genetic mutation leads to albinism. The tyrosinase enzyme weakens with age, and the dog's nose may become lighter in color.

### **Seasonal Nasal Hypopigmentation**

Seasonal nasal hypopigmentation (SNH) is common in malamutes. It's also called "snow nose" because it affects breeds (Labrador retrievers, golden retrievers, Siberian huskies, Bernese mountain dogs) that originated in snowy regions. That deep black summer nose becomes a lovely pink winter nose. Some researchers speculate that the aforementioned tyrosinase enzyme isn't a fan of cold and slows down as the temperature cools. The tyrosinase enzyme is a harbinger of spring in malamutes because as the weather warms, it increases its activity and your malamute's nose turns black again!

### **Conclusion**

In general, loss of pigmentation in malamutes' noses is cosmetic. When unexpected changes occur, however, it's critical to see the vet because some dogs develop diseases that manifest in the nose. Veterinarians recommend two steps if your malamute develops a lighter nose. First, use metal or ceramic bowls rather than plastic. Some dogs react to the chemicals in plastic. Also, have the dog's thyroid checked.



*Kodiak and Carl*

## AMAL REMEMBRANCES

*January 1 - March 31, 2023*

- In Memory of Denali & Vinson, by Debra Castro
- In Loving Memory of Kodiak – Estate gift, by Carl Schwenk
- In Memory of “Lani” Gregory, CHAAMP Rescue, by Annette Gregory

## AMAL PROFIT & LOSS SUMMARY

*January 1 through March 31, 2023*

### INCOME

Donations in	
General	\$4113.00
Membership	\$150.00
Miscellaneous	\$153.57
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$5771.57</b>

### EXPENSES

Vet	\$5000.00
Newsletter (2)	\$601.58
Miscellaneous fees	\$7.04
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$5608.62</b>

**Quarterly Net Gain** **\$162.95**

*Checkbook balance* *\$143554.58*  
*March 31, 2022)*

## PLEASE PAY YOUR ANNUAL DUES!

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



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