

AMAL TALES

November 2023

President's Message

Hello Malamute Lovers,

The Alaskan Malamute National has come and gone for another year. Sharon Nichols (as usual!) was hard at work making the wine fundraiser, the Rescue Parade, and AMAL booth a success as she does each year. Many thanks to her and Sharon Huston for their tireless work every year at this event. They prep and gather all year long to ensure our rescue participants have a warm welcome and a wonderful and memorable experience rain or shine. Many thanks to both of them, as well as all the volunteers behind the scenes that make the national week so memorable.

I would also like to congratulate our Christenson Award winner for 2023. We had many well deserving nominations this year and it was not an easy decision. I appreciate those affiliates who took the time to send nominations in to recognize their volunteers. The BEST award (in my book) are the cuddles and appreciation these dogs show us when we are able to change their lives for the better.

As we near the end of 2023 please remember your favorite AMAL affiliate if you are considering end of year financial donations. Many affiliates have "wish lists" of needed and appreciated items for their rescue pups. These last years have been very taxing on all rescues, and many dogs that are in rescue are in a boarding facility due to lack of space and available fosters. The affiliates (and the dogs!) would appreciate anyone who has time to visit and walk these dogs. If you have experience grooming or transporting, there is always a need there as well.

The next newsletter will see us in 2024 and I wish you all a safe and pleasant holiday season with those that you love, both two legged and four!

Andrea Stern

President, AMAL

It's time to pay your dues, please!!!
Mail the form on page 2, or pay online!



Alaskan Malamute Assistance League

..... We Pull For Them



Bucky Jack and Athena

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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



AMAL Membership Application/Renewal

July 2023 - June 2024

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

Cover Boy: Bucky Jack (with Athena)

Read part of Bucky Jack's story on page 4. Here's the remainder: After two failed adoptions, Bucky Jack went to what CHAAMP thought would be the perfect home in 2018. In the evening, he would try to jump out the window, pace, and pant. The adopter, concerned that Bucky Jack would hurt himself, returned him. A professional dog trainer, Stephanie Peebles, used rewards-based methods and Bucky Jack loved training; however, on outside of training he continued to be excitable, jumping, humping and nibbling, air snapping, and lunging while leashed. In December 2019, Bucky Jack went home to live with a male husky (Finn) and a female malamute (Athena). He remained high-strung. Trazodone, CBD, and natural supplements didn't help and he was diagnosed and treated for generalized anxiety. Today he is the best dog his family has ever had! He took Rally all the way to advanced and is taking Nose Work. Athena had been afraid of life outside her crate. Thanks to Bucky Jack, she received medical intervention to help her anxiety and goes on walks in the neighborhood. Medication allows dogs to think, learn new behaviors, and create new habits. Dogs with mental health challenges need help from a veterinarian behaviorist, the equivalent of a human psychiatrist.

BUCKY WAS ATTACKED!!!

Around 9:30 PM on October 28, Lucie was walking Bucky when a large dog charged aggressively toward Bucky, tackling him to the floor and viciously biting him. Bucky was completely startled and did not defend himself. Lucie screamed and the dog ran away, but moments later, the dog returned circling and charging once again. This time the dog got too close to Lucie and Bucky reacted to defend his mama-mute. A stranger (suspected to be the dog's owner) pulled the dog off of Bucky so Lucie and Bucky could escape.



Lucie rushed Bucky to the vet, who sanitized three puncture wounds above his shoulder, placed Bucky on antibiotics, and prescribed a strict cleansing regimen to prevent infection and sepsis. He wears a shirt to protect his wound as it heals and drains. The vet explained that this attack could have been fatal to a smaller dog. An affidavit is being filed with animal control. Sadly, the young dog appears to have had a troubled life. Apparently, several neighbors have reported the dog, but nothing has been done. Please send prayers and good vibes that authorities will do something for the safety of the public and pets. We also pray that Bucky is not traumatized and will recover emotionally. Lucie is going to start carrying protection (again).

Protection

Some of us may not want to use protective spray on a dog because we do not want to cause pain. However, we must think of our dogs and how they trust us to keep them safe as they protect their families. The emotional and physical trauma to pet parents and dogs alike can be awful. It is best to be prepared. This means practicing our leash-handling skills and reaching for protection. It is integral that pet parents become fluent in dog handling and protection skills. For example, be aware of which way the wind is blowing to avoid accidentally spraying ourselves and/or our dog. If you use an air horn, then desensitize your dog to reduce emotional and psychological distress. Recommended protection items include

- PetSafe Spray Shield (citronella spray)
- Halt! (pepper spray)
- Pet Convincer 2 (air spray)
- Pet Corrector (air spray)
- Sabre Air Horn
- Safety Sport Dog Horn
- Kuntrona Break Stick

It is our responsibility to advocate for our dogs and protect them. Watch Michael Shikashio, CDBC, Aggressive Dog YouTube channel, "[When Sh*t Hits the Fan: Defensive Handling or Emergency Scenarios](#)" explains how to protect you and your dog.

YouTube: <https://youtu.be/R5aKurPLkco?si=raiPUGFR1Ot52xi->



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

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WILD AT HEART

Mimi Tello, CPDT-KA



Alaskan Malamutes can be free spirits, independent, intelligent, instinctual, and suspicious. They are working dogs and enjoy collaborating with humans to earn treats in training class like Nose work, Rally (a team sport in which a dog navigates a course of 10-20 signs), Tricks, etc. If they do not have a job, they will self-employ by chewing, digging, wreaking destruction, and scavenging. In rescue, we see many who experienced traumas at the hands of humans or as puppies during the fear period (periods when puppies become more sensitive and aware of the world around them, usually occurring at eight to 11 weeks and six to 14 months), and/or who were born in puppy mills with little to no socialization. These dogs frequently suffer from anxiety. Our inclination is to train our malamute into obedience without consideration of how physical and mental health could contribute to unwanted behavior. All we see is destruction and an unruly dog.

Many factors affect behavior. Intact females may become aggressive during heat cycles. Arthritis, headache, upset gut, skin issues, or a cracked tooth may cause aggression. Pet parents should observe, read our dog's body language, take note of

events leading to unwanted behavior, and try to understand why our dog is acting this way. Listening to with our eyes can pre-empt unwanted behavior, diffuse situations, and prevent bites.

In most behavior cases, it is best to go back to the basics and manage the environment. That means making their world smaller and preventing opportunities for unwanted behavior. Reinforce all good behavior with praise, toys, or a treat. Next, provide opportunities to practice scavenging, sniffing, licking, and chewing in appropriate ways. Log your dog's behavior. How many times is your dog yawning, shaking off, turning its head away, etc.? Note the activity.

Take breaks to prevent your dog from becoming over-aroused. Walk away from the fun, ask your dog to go into the down position, and calmly deliver a treat between its paws on the ground. Then go back to the fun. If your dog continues to struggle, you now have data to present to your veterinarian,



behaviorist, or trainer. Dogs, like humans, can suffer from mental health issues such as anxiety which can be displayed as a shutdown dog, aggression, or jumpy/bitey behavior. Punishment, pain, or intimidation is not the answer (although sometimes it may appear to work) and the root cause will remain unresolved.

Helping a dog with behavior issues takes time, kindness, and sometimes medication so the dog can learn new behavior with a professional dog trainer. The American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior recommends only rewards-based training methods for all dog training including that used for behavior problems. Be cautious of who you trust to train your dog because the dog training industry is unregulated, and anyone can call themselves a trainer. The Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers and the International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants are the most recognized. Alaskan Malamutes are family and worthy of the use of kind methods.

The pictures on this page are of Bucky Jack, born in August 2014, who was surrendered at age 1. Adopted at age 3, he displayed characteristics indicating he needed to be an only dog, and back to rescue he went. Sigh....The revolving door spun again in 2018, and he went to a home and returned soon. CHAAMP involved a professional trainer. Bucky Jack was well-behaved and loved training; however, on walks and during life in general he continued to be easily excitable, jumping, humping and nibbling, air snapping, and lunging at the end of the leash. Adopted again in 2019, his new family reports that involvement in training with positive rewards has helped him become the best dog they have ever owned.



Christenson Award: Rickie Anderson, WAMAL

Washington Alaskan Malamute Adoption League (WAMAL) is incredibly fortunate that Rickie Anderson, fundraiser, public relations person, and creative extraordinaire, has devoted thousands of hours, and raised tens of thousands of dollars for our organization over the years. Through Rickie's social media content, personal outreach, and her event coordination, WAMAL has, among other things:



- Received substantial donations allowing WAMAL to expand our “Mally Valley” kennels.
- Secured funding or sponsorships to provide dogs with much-needed surgeries.
- Launched the “Mally Muse,” a delightful monthly newsletter that highlights adoptable dogs and current events.
- Secured a huge variety of donations for our annual “Loot4Moots” auction. Participation continues to grow!
- Launched and grown participation in a number of other fundraisers, including Poorly Drawn Pets, the Calendar Contest, and Hike with a Mal.
- Attracted more volunteers to support WAMAL in various capacities and spread awareness of WAMAL's mission.

A former President of WAMAL, she and her husband Brad have donated time and handyman skills to improvements at Mally Valley. Though she is trying to “retire” from her fundraising activities, Rickie is still very much active with WAMAL and can sometimes be found picking up poop, filling Kong toys, or reading to one of our rescues at Mally Valley.



CALVIN'S CHRISTMAS COOKIES

Ingredients

- 1 cup rye flour (or substitute rice flour or all-purpose flour)
- $\frac{3}{4}$ teaspoon baking powder
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup unsweetened applesauce
- 2 tablespoons organic honey
- $3\frac{1}{2}$ tablespoons olive oil (or substitute organic canola oil)
- 2 tablespoons organic dried cranberries, finely chopped
- 2 tablespoons pumpkin seeds

Directions

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.
- Add the flour, baking powder, applesauce, honey, and olive oil to a mixing bowl. Stir until well combined.
- Knead dough on a lightly floured surface and roll out to about half an inch thick. Cut treats with a cookie cutter and place on a parchment-lined baking sheet.
- Firmly press a few pieces of chopped cranberries and pumpkin seeds into the top of each cookie.
- Bake for about 12-15 minutes, or until treats are firm to the touch.
- Turn off oven and open oven door. Allow cookies to cool in oven, about 20-30 minutes.
- These cookies will keep for several days when stored in a covered airtight container in a cool, dry, shaded location. Cookies may also be frozen: separate treats with parchment paper and store in an airtight covered container.

**AMAL at 2023 AMCA
REGIONAL & NATIONAL SPECIALTIES**



The 2023 AMCA Regional and National Specialties Show took place October 21st through 28th in Albany, Oregon! Hats off to Show Chair John Dewing and Assistant Chair Sharon Weston for organizing this memorable event for the AMCA West Coast Region. It was fun to mingle with longtime friends and view beautiful malamutes.

AMAL participated in several events: pre-sales of our AMAL wines, week-long fundraising at the AMAL table, a demonstration of the Online Pedigree Database, the AMAL Affiliate Rescue Showcase, and the Silent Auction. Special thanks to Sharon Huston (AMRNC) for designing and producing beautiful rescue showcase memory books, ribbons, awards, and related event graphics. Also, thanks to Heidi Van Zee (WAMAL), who helped arrange robust welcome bags, participated in the rescue showcase, and found volunteers who assisted at the AMAL table sales! Thanks to all others who contributed efforts or donations (or both) for the AMAL swag bags, table or auction sales and transportation services.

AMAL honored seven participants at the rescue showcase. They came from WAMAL, CHAAMP, and our former Alaskan Malamute Rescue affiliate from Alaska. Their stories were heartening and the dogs did nicely in the ring. The large audience was very welcoming and appreciative. Thanks to Gloria Toussant for providing advance "fluff & puff" grooming services for our stars.

The 2024 AMCA Regional and National Specialties Show will be October 20th through the 26th at Roberts Center in Wilmington, Ohio. Cindy Benson is the Show Chair. The Great Lakes Region includes: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio. Add it to your calendars and start planning for it!

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. Identify treasures you may be willing to part with for the next show. We will post delivery contact information in a later newsletter, closer to the event.

Looking ahead to another fun-filled National Specialty! Hope to see you there...

Sharon Nichols

Our 2023 Rescue Stars!

ECHO ELI LUNA

NUKA OREO SILVER SUMMER

Please come cheer for them on Saturday!
Everyone Welcome





- DARYA PONOMARYOVA/ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

AMAL REMEMBRANCES

July 1 - September 30, 2023

- In name of Mary d'Alba, by John Fisher of Chelmsford, MA
- Honoring Miska, his amazing new mal, by Michael Paul, Fruita, CO
- In Memory of Summit, by Michael Paul, Fruita, CO

AMAL PROFIT & LOSS SUMMARY

July 1 through September 30, 2023

INCOME

Donations in	
General	\$1553.34
Membership	\$100.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$1652.34

EXPENSES

Newsletter	\$388.10
Insurance	2149.5
General	687
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$3224.60

Quarterly Net Gain/Loss	(\$1572.26)
<i>Checkbook balance</i>	<i>\$152666.42</i>
<i>September 30, 2023)</i>	

PLEASE PAY YOUR ANNUAL DUES!

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

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