

# AMAL TALES

February 2016

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE!**

We save dogs. That's what rescue is all about. Not pettiness, not shying away from doing it the hard way. Dogs. Saving lives.

Sometimes that means you do the thing that no one else seems to want to do. Some times that thing is not "appropriate" according to some people. But Hailey, an 8 year old girl, chose to do something. To help. To sacrifice her special day for the sake of a dog she has yet to meet.

But she will soon. Because what she did made a difference to this dog. She didn't care if it was "the right thing" to do. She didn't think that maybe it might be controversial. All she cared about was doing something to help save one dog's life.

When I grow up, I want to be like Hailey.

*Michael Roach*  
President, AMAL



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**Alaskan Malamute Assistance League**

..... *We Pull For Them*

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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 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](mailto:treasurer@malamuterescue.org)  
or go to <http://tinyurl.com/c3jlyqj>  
and use PayPal.



*Maya and Pete. Photo compliments of the Ross family of Washington state.*

## AMAL TALES NOMINATED FOR DWAA AWARD

Once again, *AMAL Tales* was honored with a nomination for the Dog Writers Association of America's Maxwell Award. Readers will recall that this publication was nominated—and actually won the category—in 2015.

Sadly, we did not win this year. We are grateful for the nomination and the national exposure. It acknowledges the many AMAL members who contribute quality stories to *AMAL Tales*.

Susan Conant, a longtime AMAL member, was also nominated. Susan is a seven-time winner of the Maxwell Award. This year, her work of fiction *Sire and Damn*, was nominated in the Young Adult or Humor category. *Sire and Damn* is the 20<sup>th</sup> in her Holly Winters series, and was published in May 2015.

Malamute lovers who haven't read the series need to mush over to Amazon and start reading. You'll see your own malamutes in the antics attributed to Holly's malamutes.



# BEHAVIOR WITH A MESSAGE

*Christine Kubus*

How gross! Your dog goes out in the yard and you think he leaves his business out there, right? If you look out and see your dog eating his poo, he could be trying tell you something.

Coprophagia, or eating fecal matter, can signal a nutritional deficiency. When dogs' diets aren't balanced, they may develop the urge to eat their poop for extra nutrients. They may also have parasites or undiagnosed medical conditions resulting in decreased nutrients absorption. The first step to address this is to make an appointment with your veterinarian, and mention this behavior.

Other causes of this behavior could be as simple as boredom or a way to get your attention. The concept of "doggie see, doggie do" may also come into play. Mothers eat their puppies' poop as a way to clean up after their young. Puppies see this and they too may begin to eat poop. Also, the old potty-training tactic of pushing a dog nose in indoor bowel accidents may encourage coprophagia.

So how can we stop the madness?

Pay attention to the dog's behavior when the behavior occurs. This will help you use the appropriate technique to correct the behavior.

If your dog is underweight, has unusually soft poop or has undigested food in the feces, seek advice from your vet and feed your dog high quality food.

Keep your dog entertained, especially in the backyard and on walks. This will keep him/her from getting bored. Also, keep dogs on leash in the backyard until they go, then let them off leash to play while you clean it up promptly.



You can also add a small amount of crushed pineapple or pineapple juice to your dog's food – this makes the feces undesirable for your pet. Keep in mind this approach will only help if they eat their own poop.

# COPROPHAGIA: TEN FACTS

#1. Scientists think that often, inability to break down food causes coprophagia. Consequently, (1) the dog is hungry, and (2) undigested food is passed in the stool. The dogs eat the stool because he is hungry and the stool has food in it.

#2. Puppies are more likely to eat stool than older dogs. Many outgrow the behavior.

#3. Coprophagia is often a sign of exocrine pancreatic insufficiency, which means the pancreas isn't producing enough digestive enzymes. Coprophagia may also indicate pancreatitis—an inflamed pancreas.

#4. If your dog has this problem, try different diets. Some dogs do better on a high-fat diet, some respond to a high-fiber diet, and others do well with a highly digestible low-residue diet. Do trials of 3 weeks until you find what works.

#5. Cats are obligatory carnivores, and their stool contains protein if they eat cat food that has indigestible components. Dogs know that and will clean the cat's litter box.

#6. Rabbit droppings are rich in digestive enzymes and B vitamins, which are both substances dogs can smell and like. That explains why dogs love "bunny presents."

#7. Wolves and coyotes eat their stool when food is in short supply. If your rescue dog came from a puppy mill or neglect situation, he or she may have developed this habit.

#8. Probiotics and digestive enzymes may cure the problem.

#9. Many people recommend adding meat tenderizer to the dog's food. Beware: meat tenderizer is full of MSG, so this is not a good idea.

#10. Recently, there have been some reports of dogs being poisoned after eating stool. Dogs who take medication pass part of it in their stool; dogs who eat the stool (their own or another dog's) swallow an unintended dose. If they've already had their daily dose, the medication in the stool could put them over the toxic threshold. If a small dog eats a big dog's stool, the unintended dose could be too much.

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## ZACH AND THE GIFT OF SIGHT

*Katy Flanagan*

Zach is a big, beautiful, sweet male Alaskan malamute who kept escaping from his home in the Oregon desert. He would travel a few miles to stay with a nice lady and her two dogs. Zach didn't like being left at home alone chained up with nothing to do! The lady who took Zach under her wing knew she couldn't keep him. They live in a rural area with no fenced yard, and even though her dogs would stick around, Zach was a malamute and liked to explore. This lady contacted Moonsong Malamute Rescue and asked if we could possibly help find a good home for Zach. She said Zach's owner was willing to surrender him since she didn't have time for him. And, nearby neighbors who owned livestock had threatened to shoot Zach given any opportunity.

Zach's new mom kept telling us Zach was big. Malamute rescue operations hear that all the time, so we didn't think much of it. In the pictures she sent, we couldn't tell how large he was. It wasn't until we had another rescue friend go meet Zach for us that we started thinking he was unusually big. Our rescue friend said she had never seen a malamute this big.



When Moonsong Malamute Rescue took Zach in, we were amazed at what a wonderful, gentle giant he was. Zach tips the scales at around 110 pounds. We could see that Zach's eyes were cloudy, and we were saddened when the eye doctor told us that both of Zach's eyes had severe cataracts. The eye specialist said if Zach was a human, he would be declared legally blind. Cataract surgery was the only option to treat Zach's blindness and give him the gift of sight. Zach was only 4 and 1/2 years old and we wanted him to live the rest of his life with good eyesight. Without the surgery, he was doomed to see just shadows. And, his sight would worsen with each passing year. The estimate for cataract surgery for both eyes was about \$4000. We couldn't commit to Zach's surgery until we raised the funds.

With the help of a YouCaring fundraising site and a Facebook campaign, we miraculously raised more than \$4000 in less than a month! Approximately three dozen people donated towards Zach's surgery, including a very generous donation from the Illinois Alaskan Malamute Rescue Association! It was truly heartwarming to see the outpouring of concern and generosity from all these people.

In mid December 2015, Zach had a successful double cataract surgery. His post-operative routine includes several types of eye drops multiple times daily, and we bring him back to the ophthalmologist for rechecks.

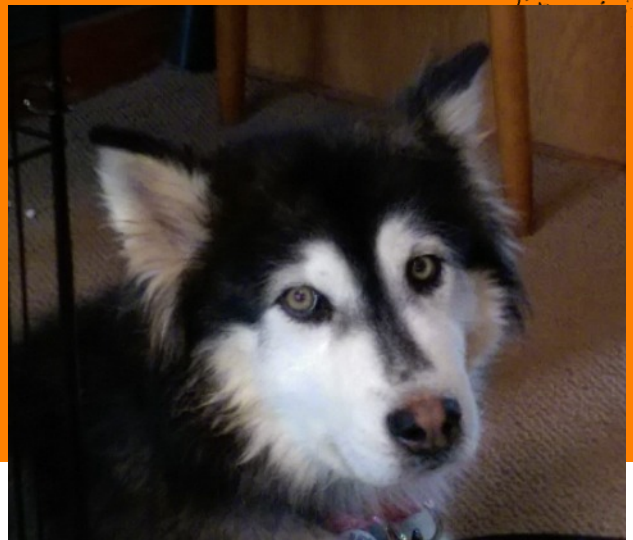
After a month of wearing the "cone of shame" Zach was finally able to return to a more normal routine. He will need to have two kinds of eye drops instilled in both eyes for the rest of his life. He is also predisposed to develop glaucoma, so the eye drops will help keep his intraocular pressure down. Zach's future family will need to commit to giving his eye health top priority with daily eye drops and rechecks with a canine ophthalmologist at regular intervals. We hope Zach will have a long life ahead with many days of fun, adventure, love, and clear vision. This sweet boy deserves no less! To learn more about Zach and see his Photo Gallery and links to video, see Zach's listing here:

[http://www.moonsongmams.org/adoption/Zach\\_10\\_15/Zach\\_10\\_15.html](http://www.moonsongmams.org/adoption/Zach_10_15/Zach_10_15.html)





Photos by Mike Roach



## COVER STORY

This is the story of Hailey's birthday party. This beautiful young lady dedicated her 8<sup>th</sup> birthday party to our Rescue and asked her guests to bring a donation for the dogs in lieu of gifts!

Hailey and her guests raised a little more than \$125 for the rescue. She decided to donate all of it to help with the heartworm treatment needed for one dog.

Hailey is the future of our world. She represents what humans can be. She is humane. She is humanity. And she knows, at 8 years old, why it is important to respect life. To give without reservation. To find the joy in saving lives.

## AMAL TALES

*Next Issue*  
*May, 2016*

- Have an idea for an article?
  - Got Pictures?
  - Love something in this issue?
- Send suggestions and feedback!!!

Contact Jeannette at [jjwickrph@aol.com](mailto:jjwickrph@aol.com)



## DON'T FORGET DECOMPRESSION

Sylvia Bailey recently shared this link to an article describing the decompression phase of adopting or fostering a dog:

<http://tinyurl.com/hy3hbjh>

Its key point is this: When a home is new to the dog, even if it's quieter and less chaotic than the kennel, they need time to adjust. This is great reading for new adopters.

## MOLASSES PEANUT DOG TREATS

### INGREDIENTS

- 4 tablespoons molasses
- 1/2 cup peanut butter
- 1 cup water
- 6 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 1/2 cups old fashioned oats
- 2 cups whole wheat flour

### DIRECTIONS

- Preheat oven to 350° Fahrenheit
- Whisk together the molasses, peanut butter, water, and vegetable oil.
- Combine the oats and flour. Add to wet ingredients.
- Mix thoroughly. Drop tablespoonfuls onto a baking sheet, and press down.
- Bake for 25-30 minutes or until firm.

Molasses provides manganese and trace minerals for your dog's diet.

### AMAL Membership Application/Renewal

July 2015 - June 2016

Go to <http://tinyurl.com/cn72xz7> to renew on line!

Name/s: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

(HINT: Use a return address label)

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Membership Level

\$25: Individual/Family who want to receive AMAL Tales, the quarterly AMAL newsletter.

\$100: Benefactor receives AMAL Tales plus Compact Disk with Alaskan Malamute Pedigree & Registry Program.

\*\*\*CD Renewal - If you are an existing AMAL Benefactor with Registry CD, you can renew your membership for \$25 and receive an updated Registry CD by emailing your paid completed form (or online PayPal request) to

[treasurer@malamuterescue.org](mailto:treasurer@malamuterescue.org). Those non-U.S. AMAL members who want CDs shipped to them should add \$10 for postage cost consideration. CD Pedigree online form:

<http://malamuterescue.org/about/memberapp.html>

#### 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!).

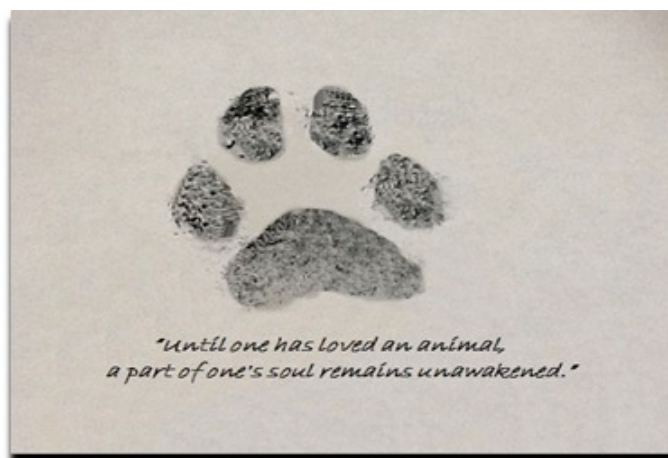
Mail to:

AMAL Membership  
c/o Treasurer  
P.O. Box 7161  
Golden, CO 80403



## Special Donations

December 1, 2015 through February 01, 2016



In memory of Kristin Zoller Johnson,  
by Meredith Renard

In honor of Rosebud, by Carol McKinney

### AROUND THE WEB

Roving reporter Ian Rowe of College Park, MD, sent this video of a common problem in households with malamutes (small prey instinct) that had an unusual outcome. Find the video here: <https://imgur.com/mzcVqBn>





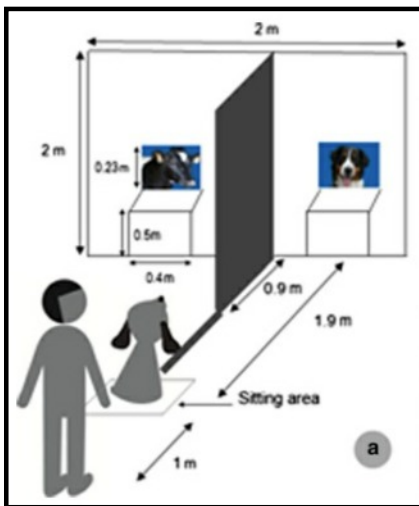
## FRENCH RESEARCHERS SOLVE AGE-OLD PUZZLE

What question? It's a question related to something scientists call "the species problem." The species in which dogs reside, *Canis familiaris*, is the most diverse species on earth. How do dogs know that the mammal trotting down the street is another dog? Researchers have wondered if dogs use scent and vision, or if they can identify other dogs solely by appearance.

French researchers based in France recruited nine companion dogs; two purebreds (a Border collie and Labrador) joined seven mixed breed dogs. The researchers trained the study subjects by showing them two adjacent screens separated with a divider. They flashed two images simultaneously, and gave the dogs a click and a treat for approaching the "correct" screen. They used the same dog picture consistently in the training sessions, and a cow's face as the other picture. Dogs learned that rewards were associated with dog pictures.

Next, dogs had to approach the dog image 10 out of 12 times in two consecutive sessions. Fewer successful attempts could have been attributed to chance, so the dogs needed to be accurate a majority of the time. All nine dogs successfully identified the dog picture. This created a common language between the dogs and the researchers!

In the actual study, dogs had to choose between new dog faces and non-dog faces. The new dogs pictures varied in head shape, color, size, and ear position. The 144 pictures of dogs were rotated, and ranged from Chihuahua to mastiff-sized dogs. The non-dog faces included humans, cats, sheep, gerbils, cows, rabbits, reptiles, and birds, among others.



The dogs—all of them—successfully identified dog from non-dog faces. The mixed breed study subjects Babel, Bag, Cyane and Vodka were quick to identify dogs. Bahia (a golden Labrador) and Cusco (a mixed breed), needed additional sessions, but the researchers indicate that their personalities, learning styles, and motivation may have had more to do with it than their intelligence.

What does this mean? Dogs don't need their sniffers to recognize other dogs. Yes, when your dog is on leash and sees another dog far on the distance, he or she knows it's a dog. (And we needed a research study to figure this out?)

The researchers conclude, "... although humans have stretched *Canis familiaris* to its morphological limits, its biological entity has been preserved."

Although the researchers indicated that more study is needed to determine how dogs identify other dogs, a quick search of the scientific literature shows that most of these researchers are now working with heifers.

## JUST SIX WEEKS TO SPRING: DOG-EARED PAGES

With the winter winding down for most of our members (and here's a WOO-HOOO! for our overseas members who may be seeing the last of summer), the days can be short and the evenings dark. Great reading weather!

As an avid reader, your editor is always looking for a good book—meaning a book that includes a dog. Susan Conant's Holly Winter series is a favorite. JYW's also always on the lookout for a new volume in Spencer Quinn's Chet and Bernie mystery series. In fact, she follows Chet the Dog on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/ChetTheDog/?fref=nf>).

Chet announced *Off the Shelf's* "Tail-Wagging Tales About Man's Best Friend" in a recent post. *Off the Shelf* recommends 11 good reads, listed to the right. Find the list with brief descriptions here: <http://offtheshelf.com/2016/02/11-tail-wagging-tales-about-mans-best-friend/>.

## BOOKS WITH A BARK

1. The Art of Racing in the Rain (Garth Stein)
2. Marley & Me (John Grogan)
3. The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time (Mark Haddon)
4. Dog on It (Spencer Quinn)
5. A Dog's Purpose (W. Bruce Cameron)
6. Inside of a Dog (Alexandra Horowitz)
7. Rin Tin Tin (Susan Orlean)
8. Travels with Casey (Benoit Denizet-Lewis)
9. What the Dog Knows (Cat Warren)
10. The Dogs of Littlefield (Suzanne Berne)
11. Fifteen Dogs (Andre Alexis)



# AMCA ALASKAN MALAMUTE NATIONAL SPECIALTY SHOW



The 2016 Regional & National Specialty Shows will be held October 23-25 (Regional) and October 26-29 (National), at Hotel Elegante, in beautiful Colorado Springs, CO. For additional information check the Alaskan Malamute Club of America web site: <http://www.alaskanmalamutenationals.com/>

AMAL looks forward to supporting the Regional Rescue Showcase and having a fundraising booth. We'll have more information on where to send donations and other event details in the next newsletter. Keep the dates open!

AMAL can use some valuable auction and sales items. Be thinking of those unique malamute-related items that will sell well. A mailing contact and address for sales items will be posted closer to the event.

Hope to see you there!  
Sharon Nichols

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