

AMAL TALES

January 2013

INSIDE:

- Many Thanks, page 2
- Christianson Award, page 3
- Dedications, page 4
- Rescue Showcase, page 5
- **PLEASE PAY YOUR ANNUAL DUES**
Page 6
- Meet Sherry, page 7



*Tonto, disappointed
that the 2012
Holiday Season
has ended!*

President's Message:

Reporting Good News with Relief

Good news! One hundred seventy-six (yes, 176) malamutes kenneled in Helena, Montana, are free to be rehomed! After 14 months in the Lewis and Clark Humane Society's custody, the Aluk Malamutes—40 adult males, 57 females, 24 sub-adult females, and 32 sub-adult males—received a Christmas present. The Court's sentencing on Mike Chilinski's 90 felony counts of animal cruelty allows their release. All of us are excited they'll soon be in homes where they can receive the love and individual attention they've deserved.

A generous donation from Alaskan Malamute Rescue of North Carolina and a donation from an adopter from Malamute Rescue of Alaska provided sufficient funds to spay/neuter the entire Malamute Village. Four teams neutered/spayed these lovely malamutes on December 29 and 30, 2012, in Helena. After they recover, they will be available to approved homes. AMAL's first trip to move these malamutes to a kinder, more loving world will be January 4, 2013. We expect the closest affiliates will move the dogs out. Several of us are also working on a mass transport to the east coast where we can distribute them to appropriate adopters who have applied to affiliates and been ok'd to adopt. After the mega-transport back east, we'll work with AMAL affiliates closer to Helena to accept the remaining Aluk Malamutes so they can place them with adopters and in foster homes.

We hope interest in these malamutes will grow with their release. Our need for homes for these malamutes is enormous. If you wish to adopt or can provide foster care for these malamutes, see your local affiliate at <http://www.malamuterescue.org/rescue/listorg.html>, e-mail montanamalamuteseizure@gmail.com, or leave a message at (419) 512-2423. Providing a home for one of these malamutes could be one of the best things you've done in your life. It certainly will be life-changing for the dogs.

—Bob Sutherland, President, AMAL



Alaskan Malamute Assistance League

..... *We Pull For Them*

AMAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Bob Sutherland

president@malamuterescue.org

Vice President

Susan Conant

vicepresident@malamuterescue.org

Secretary

Mike Ulman

secretary@malamuterescue.org

Treasurer

Sharon Nichols

treasurer@malamuterescue.org

Member at Large

Angela Brown

director@malamuterescue.org

Membership

Shel Simpson

membership@malamuterescue.org

GENERAL INFO

Hotline: (419) 512-2423

contact@malamuterescue.org

PO Box 54, Concord, NC 28026

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 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
or go to <http://tinyurl.com/c3jlyqj>
and use PayPal

Putting Up a Howl: Welcome-Bag Sponsors

The following people and businesses contributed to the AMAL Rescue Showcase Welcome bags, and we'd be mal-adjusted if we didn't put up a big howl of thanks:

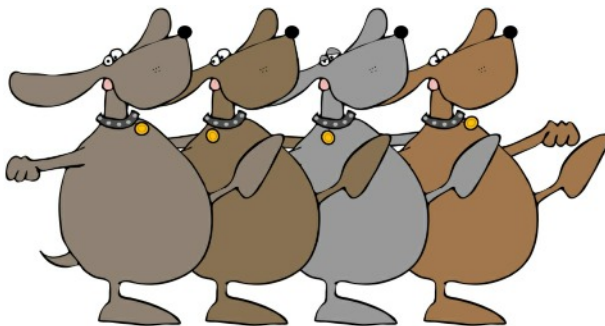
- Karen Jordan
- AMRNC.org
- Sharon Huston
- KongCompany.com
- Sharon Nichols/POLARIS
- Susan Conant
- www.yummychummies.com
- www.thepetclub.net
- Kitty City/Cabarrus Cares
- MoonPie/Chattanooga Bakery
- Phyllis Ensley Photography
- www.odobanpet.com
- Rawandnaturalpets.com
- www.happydogcafe.net
- www.katiesbumpers.com
- BioGroom.com
- naturalbalanceinc.com

And Another Howl for...the ASPCA

The ASPCA awarded AMAL a \$5,000 grant to be used for transporting the Aluk Mals!

Thankful Doggie Dance

Finally, Premier Pet Products in Midlothian, Virginia, gets the "Thank You Doggie Dance" for sending 150 large and 50 medium martingale collars for Aluk Mals heading to rescue organization all over the United States in January 2013! Special thanks to Wheadon Dance, Inside Sales Account Manager, for coordinating this gift. Find Premier Pet Products here: www.premier.com





Jeanette Preveland & Thor



*Louise Sturm
& Mya*



Linda Owen & Moonbeam

AMAL Tales is The Alaskan Malamute Assistance League's Newsletter, published quarterly in the spring, summer, fall and winter. All rights reserved. Copyright 2013.

All articles and photographs remain the property of their respective authors.

Submit articles, stories and/or letters to the editor to:
Jeanette Wick
Email: jywickrph@aol.com
Phone: (703) 629-6259

The Alaskan Malamute Assistance League (AMAL) is not liable and assumes no responsibility for loss or damages arriving directly or indirectly from errors occurring in the publication of AMAL Tales. Opinions expressed by our correspondents do not necessarily reflect the standards, practices or opinions of AMAL's Directors or AMAL Tales' editorial staff.

Christenson Award: Triple Play

Presented annually at the AMCA National Specialty Banquet by the Alaskan Malamute Assistance League, the prestigious Christenson Memorial Award recognizes rescuers who always work but are seldom in the limelight.

This year's Christenson Award is shared by deserving rescuers **Linda Owen, Jeanette Prevel and Louise Sturm.**

Louise Sturm, Linda Owen, and Jeanette Prevel have faithfully walked, groomed, and biked Aluk Malamutes at Malamute Village since March 2012. They appeared as we evaluated the dogs. With their unexpected assistance, we assessed more than 60 dogs in a couple of days! That weekend, we also experimented with short walks for a few dogs. Ever since, these ladies spent any "idle" weekend volunteering at Mal Village. Note that this trio also volunteered a little over ten years ago after a huge collie puppy mill bust in Northern Montana. They drove from Helena north to "Camp Collie" as often as possible to work with the dogs.

Louise still has a rescue Collie from that seizure. Linda has quite the menagerie of dogs at her place, and Jeanette shows and competes several mals in agility events. Even with dogs of their own, Linda, Louise, and Jeanette have helped the Aluk malamutes enjoy their long stay at Mal Village.

AMAL representatives have noticed a wonderful change in the dogs each time they visit! With more exercise, the Mals became calmer, and some of the shyer dogs seemed more confident. Seeing the example set by Louise, Linda, and Jeanette, others carved out time from their busy schedules to walk and brush dogs.

These three volunteers addressed the greatest need first. Superbly organized, they maintained progress notes for each dog—this was an invaluable addition to baseline assessments. Their initiative to name all of the female dogs got caretakers interested in naming the males. Louise updated our huge master spreadsheet, adding dog names and recording progress.

Faithful. Dedicated. Hard working. Louise Sturm, Linda Owen, and Jeanette Prevel have enriched the Aluk Mals' lives. They deserve—and epitomize the spirit of the Christenson Award.



Special Donations Received by AMAL

September 1 – December 31, 2012

For the Aluk dogs, in memory of CH. Zardal Knik-Knak Qtr. Pounder, by Kimberly Lacey

In memory of James Scott Dewitt Cinnamon,
by Ronelle W. Genser

In memory of Juneau and Kodiak,
by Linda Jansen McWilliams

In memory of Snobuk's Early Call - Xena and Snobuk's First Solo - Mackie, by Maria & Rolf Dinwoodie

In memory of Choya, by Tanja Gube

In memory of Crystal, by Gail Zenker

In honor of "the great old malamutes of HUSKY-PAK," by
Robert Zoller

In honor of Tarra Naeher & her malamute, Luce,
by Michele Pritchard

In honor of Paradise Animal Hospital for their continued
support & care of malamutes, by Jill Pitcher

In honor of Jennifer Remazki, by Jill Pitcher

In honor of Ziggy & his humans, by Jill Pitcher

In honor of new friends Sonja & Irene, by Jill Pitcher

In honor of Dennis & Carol Collins, by Jill Pitcher

In honor of Jelly Paonessa, by Jill Pitcher

In honor of Kathleen Corkum, by Jill Pitcher

In honor of Ariane Forget, by Jill Pitcher

In honor of Joyce & Tom, by Jill Pitcher

In honor of Cheryl McFarland, by Jill Pitcher

In honor of Peter & Marilyn Drake, by Jill Pitcher

In honor of Linda Pike, by Jill Pitcher

Advertisements

AMAL Tales accept advertising on topics related to Malamutes or dogs in some way.

Business card size (1/8 page).....\$39.00/mo

Quarter page.....\$69.00/mo

Half page.....\$129.00/mo

Full page.....\$199.00/mo

The AMAL Board reserves the right to decline advertising that is in conflict with AMAL's mission or unrelated to dogs or rescue. Contact Jeannette Wick at jywickrph@aol.com for information.

AMAL Membership Application/Renewal

July 2012 - June 2013

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

\$20: 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 \$20 (at Individual/Family prices) and receive an updated Registry CD. I would ____ / would not ____ like an updated CD sent to me.*

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
PO Box 54
Concord, NC 28026





Rescue Mals: Resilient, Beautiful

The 2012 Alaskan Malamute National Specialty's Rescue Showcase Parade was a great reminder of what wonderful accomplishments our mal rescues can achieve. The show took place in Chattanooga, TN and more than 250 show dogs participated! Our showcase rescues were very well behaved and seemed to be in awe of the number of other happy faces they encountered. The owners were delighted to attend and their dogs made a great impact in the parade!

This year's showcase event featured 11 dogs from the Southern region with a few Mals from neighboring states. There were service dogs, woolies, BIG dogs, a little dog, dwarfs and shy dogs—each evolved into a wonderful pet and good contributor, reflecting well on the breed! Each dog had its own special story and parade viewers saw what terrific results the adopters attained with time, patience and love. The short bios brought a tear to my eyes. We heard about each dog's origins and some experiences they endured. We recognized that their resilience allowed them to project secure comfort levels...this is rescue at its finest.

AMAL had a great support team (notably Lynne Anderson, Sharon Huston, Karen Jordan, Susan Conant and the regional affiliates) working in advance to recruit parade participants, order show items (ribbons, sashes, and arm bands) and develop gorgeous memory books and generous welcome bags. The upfront work was an extensive effort, but worth every moment when you met the special rescue dogs and listened to their remarkable histories. The owner/handlers were warmly welcomed and very much appreciated.

AMCA members also helped out by providing preparatory "fluff and puff" grooming resources for the event. Thanks go out to Barbara White for organizing them. Rob Platt also stepped in to announce the dogs and read their stories at the showcase. Bob Sutherland (AMAL President) and Steve Anderson (AMCA President) congratulated each owner and presented the ribbons and awards to the dogs after they circled the show ring. The ample crowd was enthusiastic in their support of each dog's story, clapping as the dogs moved throughout the ring. A final stance included each handler and dog (as a group) in the diagonal across the show ring, and was the ending tribute for these special dogs! Paul Ganci made a great video of the showcase, so if you have not seen it, check it out on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S1x-uj1K1JE&noredirect=1>. Each owner received a DVD of this tribute.

The 2013 Alaskan Malamute National Specialty Show is scheduled for October 7-9 (Central Regional) and October 9-12 (National). It will be held at the Olympia Resort & Spa, in Oconomowoc, WI (near Milwaukee). Find more information at http://www.amcw.org/nationals/Documents/2013_Show_Flyer.pdf. We'd love to see another good showing of the Central region rescue dogs. Please begin considering those dogs who would be great ambassadors of the breed and are dog social. Make your reservations right away and we'll see you there! Look for more information to come in early 2013.

Sharon Nichols
AMAL Showcase Chairperson 2012



Hereditary Polyneuropathy

Judith Silver

Polyneuropathy (PN), a genetic disorder that affects the nervous and neuromuscular systems, leads to a lack of coordination and muscle tissue deterioration. Lars Moe, a Norwegian veterinarian, identified this disorder in Alaskan Malamutes imported from the United States in the early 1970s.

Rare and often misdiagnosed, PN usually starts as gait or walking problems before a dog turns 2 and progresses to other symptoms (see Sidebar). When symptoms begin to affect the dog, they do so rapidly - typically within about 2-3 months. Muscle tissue loss makes affected dog "boney" (you can feel the ribs, hips, and spine, and eyes are sunken and the ridge on the top of skull is pronounced) even without weight loss. Swallowing problems appear as taking a long time to eat, licking water, coughing and slow digestion that causes internal organ stress. As the disease progresses, esophageal dysfunction leads to coughing up goo, loss of use of the hind limbs and respiratory infections (pneumonia, etc.). Dogs usually do not live past age 3, but some have lived up to 8 years.

A typical exam for PN should include gag reflex function, bending the dogs feet forward, nerve reflex reactions and questions about any symptoms. Some vets may confuse PN with a brain tumor. Brain tumor symptoms are less severe and sudden and include memory problems like forgetting dog door or water bowl location, walk routines, etc. Vets will recommend an MRI to rule out brain tumor, a procedure that is unnecessary for PN.

Traditionally, vets diagnose PN using blood samples to rule out other diseases. After referral to neurology, an electromyography would be done. It sends an electric current through the dog's nerves when he is under anesthesia. An atypical reaction indicates PN is likely. Most neurologists then recommend a nerve biopsy. Owners must discuss the risks carefully—this risky procedure can damage nerves further, creating chronic pain.

Luckily, since July, 2012, an uninvasive DNA cheek swab is available to see if the dog is affected (sick and not merely a genetic carrier). For a few hundred dollars, you can do it yourself or work with your vet (see Table 2).

Unfortunately, PN is incurable. Adding psyllium to food to aid digestion, increasing dietary fat to combat weight loss, and reducing stress on stomach muscles and hind limbs can help. Studies show the non-prescription supplements L-Carnitine (2000 mg per day), riboflavin (100 mg per day), and CQ10 (100 mg per day) can help nerves, muscles, pain and energy. Physical therapy and acupuncture can be effective in slowing progress of the disease.

Table 1. Symptoms of Polyneuropathy

- "Bunny hop" run in adults
- Difficulty jumping
- Dry eye, nose and mouth
- Exercise intolerance and lethargy
- Falling
- Lack of muscle mass
- Paralysis
- Pain in the hind limbs when touched, especially around the sciatic nerves
- Swallowing difficulties and regurgitating
- Tremor or trembling in the limbs
- Ungainly movement
- Voice changes
- Walking with the foot folded under

Table 2. Polyneuropathy Resources

- A test for PN is available at www.vetdnaservices.com. After doing a cheek swab, you'll send it to Department Of Veterinary, Clinical And Animal Sciences, Section Of Genetics, Groennegaardsvej 3 Dk-1870 Frederiksberg C, Denmark. You can contact them at +45 35 33 28 28, dir +45 35 33 30 53, or minnaj@sund.ku.dk or www.sund.ku.dk). For more information, see www.ampoly.info.
- A Facebook support group for owners of Alaskan Malamutes with Polyneuropathy is a valuable resource. Find them at <http://www.facebook.com/groups/125185114180834/>

Mals on the Web

AMAL's web site (<http://www.malamuterescue.org>) is a valuable resource for any Malamute owner, actual or prospective. If you haven't tagged it in your favorite sites, please visit. On it, you'll find the most recent news, ways you can wear your commitment to Malamutes, and links to articles and resources.

We're also on Facebook! It's an active page with plenty of pictures, so "Like" us and see the Montana Mals finds homes one by one!

My New Life

Sherry Levinter

I'm Sherry and I live in the land of the red-coated Mounties. I moved a long way from Chesapeake Area Alaskan Malamute Protection (CHAAMP) to my forever home in Hawkestone, Canada. Riding in a vehicle with two strange humans was scary but they did their best to calm and comfort me. When I arrived, everything was strange. I was especially scared of humans, even when they tried to pet me. I tried to get away but I couldn't run very far. They let me settle down, gave me fresh water and let me walk around the compound.

Soon, they let me into the human cave. I had never been in a place like that and the first thing I saw was another dog. I thought I was going to be an only child! This dog did everything I did, exactly. After I explored the house, Hu-mom gave me a bowl of food but when I saw this other dog go for it, I was really mad. I charged that dog and told her to stay away from my food. The humans moved my bowl away and I gobbled up my meal.

Then I explored. The floors had soft, fuzzy stuff on them which kept me from slipping (carpet). My Hu-mom observed how I reacted to the new surroundings but didn't bother me. I walked into a place called the mommy room—its tall glass doors showed that dog following me around again! It made me angry and charged at the other dog. Finally, the humans put something in front of her so I couldn't see her.

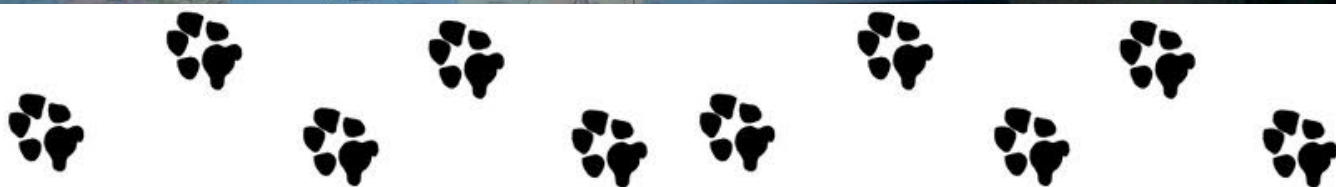
One day, Hu-mom left a sliding cupboard door open. When I looked inside, I saw racks of shoes and other things on the floor. I moved that junk, lay down and slept. When Hu-mom came in I told her I to move her stuff elsewhere. She complied with alacrity. I found another cave when she left a door in the hall cupboard open and made the same demand. Now I have two comfy places to sleep-but only if someone leaves the doors open.

Soon, it got very hot outside. Whew! I still wore my winter clothes; you don't just step out of them. I started to drop hair in clumps. Hu-mom had never seen that much hair fall from what she thought was a short coat. She brushed and combed. The front lawn looked like it had snowed again and it stayed that way for a month. I appreciated the nice, cool human cave. I wondered how they kept it that way but who cared? I decided that was the place for me.



9-year old Sherry is Holly Levinter's "only dog." Sherry thinks reflected images are real, a problem solved by covering all mirrors to Sherry's eye level.





ADDRESS LABEL

Alaskan Malamute Assistance League
C/o Wick
306 Preston Road
Griswold, CT 06351
To switch to electronic distribution, please contact
membership@AMAL.org