

# AMAL TALES

November, 2013

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*Bella, in wig*

## *President's Message: Putting Up a Howl!*

The past month has been a great month for raising the malamute rescue flag. We attended the Alaskan Malamute Club of America (AMCA) National Specialty in Oconomowoc Wisconsin, hosting their Rescue Showcase, and a week later we held the first Aluk or Project Malamute reunion in Helena, MT.

At the AMCA National Specialty, our fundraising booth—under Sylvia Bailey's and Tanja Gube's constant supervision—raised money for needy malamutes throughout the country. We were also gifted with the presence of AMAL affiliate coordinators Kris Kerr, Vicky Meluso, Jackie Roach, Julie Wolszczak and Sharon Nichols (who is also an AMAL board member). The booth was a magnificent place to meet people and share malamute stories. Thanks to everyone who made it a great success!

The Rescue Showcase is the best opportunity to see our rescued malamutes, dogs that fell into trouble through no fault of their own. This year ten malamutes from Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, and Nebraska area affiliates circled the show ring while their rescue stories were read. At the last minute, an Aluk malamute joined them. At a hospitality suite reception afterward, we shared many stories of our dogs. Many thanks to the groups who supplied these wonderful dogs. And thanks to Vicky Meluso for the fabulous baskets and Sharon Nichols who arranged the event.

The 2014 AMCA National Specialty will be held in San Diego November 2 through 8. We'll have a fundraising booth again and of course the Rescue Showcase. For more information see: <http://alaskanmalamute.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/Intro-pdf1.pdf>. Hope to see you there.

On October 19, the Aluk Malamutes or Project Malamute reunion attracted about 25 malamutes and 60 or more people. We cooked a barbecue of grass-fed Montana beef, salmon burgers, and reindeer brats, and attendees supplied salads and drinks. It was exciting to watch the Malamute Village staff recognize and greet malamutes they'd cared for last year. Most of the malamutes recognized them, and you could see it was a very happy and loving reunion.

—Bob Sutherland, President, AMAL



**Alaskan Malamute Assistance League**

..... *We Pull For Them*

## AMAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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) nonprofit 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 to helping Alaskan Malamutes. To donate contact

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

## Treasurer's Report

July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013

Bank Account Balance – 7/1/2012 \$ 51,918.29

### Income:

#### Deposits Received

Memberships & Donations	\$ 9,392.26
Special Project Billie	3,505.00
MT Project Malamute	15,610.00
2012 National Specialty*	4,385.78
Ebay Auction	964.84
Grants In	6,500.00
Legacies & Bequests	460.00
Matching Funds	1,454.69
Misc. Income	228.96
Web Links	132.33
TOTAL:	+ \$ 42,633.86

Note: \*Outstanding auction check will be added as received.

+ \$ 94,552.15

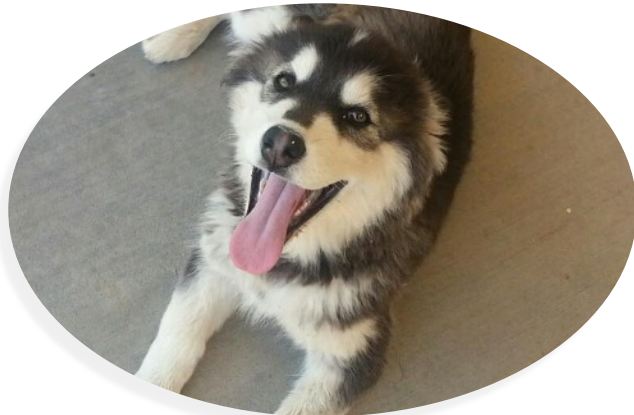
#### Checks Written

Boarding/Kenneling	\$ 1,345.00
Crates/Supplies	3,190.00
Insurance	1,505.00
2012 National Specialty	861.39
Newsletter	928.89
Office Supplies	112.66
Operating Expenses	1,177.61
Pass Thru/Sponsor	3,006.49
Returned Item	35.00
Transportation	11,589.12
Veterinary	3,513.54
TOTAL:	- \$ 27,264.70

Bank Account Balance – 7/1/2013

\$ 67,287.80





## Double Your Donation Dollars to AMAL!

In philanthropic giving, corporations often give money to nonprofit entities in the form of matching gifts. These frequently take the form of employee matching gifts, which means that if an employee donates to a nonprofit, the employee's corporation will donate money to the same designated 501(c) 3 nonprofit according to a pre-determined match ratio (usually 1:1). Donors know that their donations to AMAL will be doubled to assist malamutes in need.

Usually the sign-up time is during the autumn, at the end of the calendar year. Companies ask their employees to specify their preferred nonprofit organization to receive matching gifts. If your place of employment offers this benefit, please consider donating your donated funds to AMAL and double your donation! For more information, contact AMAL at [treasurer@malamuterescue.org](mailto:treasurer@malamuterescue.org) or by regular mail at

AMAL Treasurer  
P.O. Box 54  
Concord, NC 28026.

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Submit articles, stories and/or letters to the editor to:  
Jeannette Wick  
Email: [jywickrph@aol.com](mailto:jywickrph@aol.com)  
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## Malamutes 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 malamutes finds homes one by one!

## AMAL Membership Application/Renewal

July 2013 - June 2014

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 \$25 (at Individual/Family prices) 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  
PO Box 54  
Concord, NC 28026





## Staffing the AMAL Booth: An International Affair

My name is Tanja Gube, and I am from Germany. I've been an AMAL member for 10 years now, since buying the pedigree CD from Dan. Almost every year I come to the AMCA National Specialty to help at the AMAL booth.

Working at the booth is really fun. First you get to open lots of donation boxes, which is a bit like Christmas. Not everybody comes on the first day, so throughout the week we receive boxes with neat stuff. Everybody who attends the National comes and visits the AMAL booth at least once during the week. The new items also make people visit the booth everyday. There are Malamute people from all over the world. It's interesting and fun to talk to them. Of course they also buy things or make a donation.

The show chair usually gives AMAL a nice spot, so many people walk by and we actually watch the judging right from the booth. Lots of nice Malamutes show up at Nationals. We also have a Malamute at the booth to represent rescued malamutes. The last few years, Valley was our booth dog. She flew all the way from Anchorage. This year Cinder, one of the Aluk rescues, took over her job.

There are always quite a few boxes with the leftover stuff from last year. Some of the things have been around since my first National (ten years!). They probably would have been around for many Nationals to come, but this year we had a big clearance sale on the last day. Everything was half price, except for some really nice things that are worth keeping. The clearance sale worked really well. Many buyers actually paid more than we asked, because it was for AMAL.

One of our biggest problems is finding somebody to take all the boxes home and bring them to next year's National, so our goal is to reduce the amount of stuff to a minimum. I think this year we did a very good job. Only five boxes were left to ship to San Diego, where the next National takes place. (I won't tell that we carted everything left from the clearance sale that was unrelated to Malamutes and has been around for several years to a thrift shop that was in walking distance from the hotel.) It means that we have plenty of space at the next booth for new donations.

I have to mention one disadvantage. Spending so much time at the booth I always end up buying lots of things myself, which is a problem since I have to carry everything home on the plane.

Over the years I have made friends with quite a few AMAL members who also worked at the booth, and I always look forward to seeing them again. I am not sure if they are looking forward to seeing me or if they are looking forward to the chocolate and sweets I bring from Germany.

## Memory Books

A limited number of 2013 Rescue Showcase memory books are available. If you would like one or two, please send your paid donation (to AMAL) for \$15 each, which includes U.S. shipping- (by check ):

AMAL Treasurer  
PO Box 54  
Concord, NC 28026

Online payment by PayPal through the AMAL web site is also available.

Be sure and include your contact information and include a notation that the purchase is for the 2013 Memory Book.



*Getting groomed ...*



*Beer tap designs & Root Beer Label...*



Lucy, showcase participant, "high five-ing" her owner, Julie Wolszczak & Dawn Mayer — Northern Lights Sled Rescue



## 2013 National Specialty Show & Rescue Showcase

Sharon Nichols, 2013 Rescue Showcase Chairperson

Oconomowoc, WI, was the site of this year's National Specialty Show (October 5-12, 2013). Show Chairperson Linda Goba managed arrangements impressively—the result was a well-run series of events. Second Chance Alaskan Malamute Program (SCAMP) kindly collected items for sale at the show. AMAL had our typical fundraising booth throughout the week, selling donated items. The AMAL Rescue Showcase was held Wednesday, October 9. The AMCA auction took place October 11, and AMAL had some great products that brought in more than \$1,000 to help support mal rescue!

This year's Rescue Showcase was dedicated to longtime friend to rescue, Denise Miller. Thanks to AMAL regional and neighboring affiliates' assistance, ten dogs participated (two canceled the day before), and we provided a beautiful tribute to Nanook, who lost her battle with cancer this summer. We held a light afternoon reception where participants mingled and relaxed in a casual environment, and we were able to announce last-minute schedule changes for the day's events. Showcase participant Victoria Rego generously donated homemade natural dog biscuits and had a full bag for each owner.

All participating dogs arrived nicely groomed, and show volunteers applied a light "fluff & puff" before they entered the ring. The dogs did very well: a little vocal at times, but no skirmishes. AMAL president Bob Sutherland and AMCA president Steve Anderson thanked the owners for their work with the dogs, handed ribbons to the handlers, and placed medals on the dogs. As each dog's biography was read, the dogs and handlers encircled the ring and lined up. Bob had the Christenson Awards to present and awarded a lovely framed tribute photo (designed & donated by Victoria Rego) to Nanook's owner, Joanne Wagner. They also gave memory booklets (kudos to AMAL NC affiliate Sharon Huston for creating such beautiful souvenirs and AMAL VP Susan Conant for her helpful editing abilities) and 2014 calendars (with great malamute shots thanks to AMAL WA affiliate Sylvia Bailey) to the handlers as they left the ring.

AMCA kindly had their show photographer provide a nice memento of their special night—a free photo—to each participant.

After the showcase, AMAL hosted an evening reception where enormous gift baskets (provided by AMAL IL affiliate Vicky Meluso) were presented to participants. We enjoyed appetizers and custom-labeled beverages (thanks to NE affiliate and participant Mike Roach and participant Tim Idol) that really added to the festivities! Dogs, allowed on the patio outside the hospitality suite, behaved themselves nicely. We all enjoyed the mix of AMAL affiliates, volunteers, showcase participants, and rescue dogs.

AMAL appreciates the use of the AMCA hospitality room to hold our showcase receptions. It allowed us to save some money, arrange custom beverages (see photo, page 4), and include dogs in our events. Combined efforts from affiliates, show people, showcase participants, and organizers made this event one that we hope met its goals:

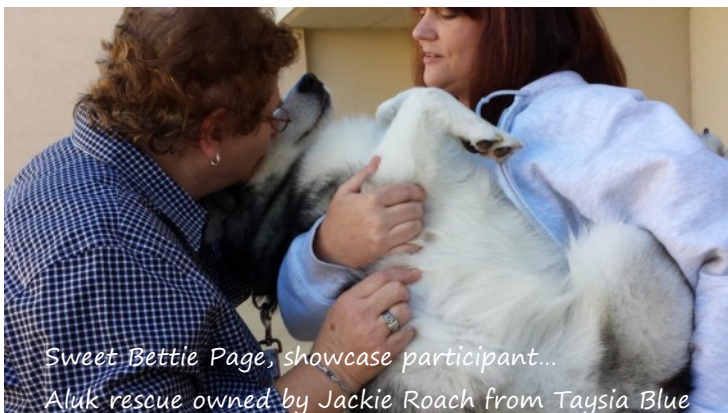
- Acknowledging wonderful rescue adopters' time and energy in giving these dogs loving homes and affectionate care so they can develop into happy pets
- Presenting souvenirs of a memorable event that showcases the dogs' accomplishments and reflects the local area
- Kicking back and enjoying the events!

Tanja Gube took videos of the showcase and made nice-looking name tags for affiliates and showcase participants—the tags helped distinguish us and place faces. Sylvia Bailey made attractive photo signs that directed people to the AMAL booth, and Mike Roach designed both a terrific welcome banner and poster (see above) for the event and reception areas. They included each dog registered at the showcase. Victoria Rego and Tim Idol made a creative map that lit up at each participating dog's home location; it was nice to see the large geographic area covered by dogs included in the event.





Showcase dogs on patio outside afternoon reception



Sweet Bettie Page, showcase participant...  
Aluk rescue owned by Jackie Roach from Taysia Blue



Kimmie, Showcase participant...  
owner: Karin Kendzora



Ribbons & medal examples...  
specialty of Sharon Huston,  
AMRNC



AMAL Booth...

## AMAL Calendars

The 2014 AMAL calendar will also be available for purchase starting in early November, so watch the Facebook page for details on those too. Calendars are a high quality spiral bound paper stock and will be \$15 each plus shipping. Support AMAL so we can support our affiliates.



## Household Help?



Kodi

WAMAL had its annual volunteer appreciation day on July 28 and had a huge turn out. The favorite story of the day? It comes from Joe and Gaylene Peluso, who adopted Winlock (now Kodi) in January of this year. They have four large birds, and one of them is an African Grey parrot who is quite the talker. Kodi likes to stand in front of the bird cage and Woowoo at the parrot. One day the parrot suddenly Woowoo'd back at Kodi. Kodi was so excited by this, Joe and Gaylene said he had a look of amazement on his face as if to say, "Someone is finally speaking my language!"

Not long after that, Kodi walked to the sliding door to go outside. The parrot screeched out, "GO POTTY!"



## Thomas and Tikaani: Ketchikan Connection

Bob Sutherland

A trip from Ketchikan, Alaska, to Anchorage is roughly the distance from Atlanta, Georgia, to Kansas City. A challenge for anybody, except there is only one "road" from Ketchikan to Anchorage, the Alaska Marine Highway otherwise known as the State Ferry.

The trip on the ferry takes three days. They sail once a month, less often or not at all in the winter. We learned about a malamute needing rescue, and had two weeks to fetch her or we'd lose her. Too big to fly, Tikaani's only chance was a ferry trip.

What does one do? Advertise on Facebook! A volunteer, Thomas, dropped out of the sky from Southeastern Idaho. We jumped at the opportunity. Thomas had tight deadlines, so we started fundraising. AMAL graciously covered Thomas' airfare and miraculously, before Thomas departed, we had covered his ferry costs.

On arrival in Ketchikan, Thomas met Tikaani and stayed at the rescuer's son's apartment. And he stocked up on groceries so he could head to the ferry terminal with Tikaani, a crate and her food. Under sunny skies at noon, the ferry Kennicott departed, starting their adventure.

Ferries can be tough on dogs. Dogs ride in the car deck where the engine noise is loud. Because the ferry's only stops are ports-of-call, disembarking for every potty break isn't possible. Dogs walk in a large circle on the car deck for 15 minutes to do their duty. At ports-of-call they can get off for four hours. Regardless, it's stressful; Tikaani ate only once in three days.

Our first inkling of trouble came when we learned the Whittier Ferry terminal was closed due to an electrical problem with the ramp. Whittier is 60 minutes from Anchorage and Thomas' flight back home. This meant Whittier passengers we rerouted to Valdez—six hours away. We rescheduled Thomas' flight from Valdez.

I drove to Valdez, planning to stay with friends nearby, but flooding closer to town threatened road closures. I went to the ferry terminal directly. Cinder and I slept in the pickup bed and waited for the Kennicott. While that was convenient to meet Thomas and Tikaani, Cinder stole my pillow. It was an uncomfortable night.

Thomas and Tikaani arrived, and we had breakfast then headed to the air terminal to await his rescheduled flight. High rains and low clouds caused his flight to be canceled. While gassing up for the return drive, Thomas contacted the airlines and rearranged flights from Anchorage (again) so he could meet his wife on the road.

During our trip, the clouds departed, leaving us with scenic Alaska. Although time was critical, we were able to get out a couple of times, walk the dogs, and enjoy the scenery. And Thomas made his flight and left.

Tikaani is now home—at our home. She's a wonderful companion for our Cinder. She loves to hike and go for walks. It was a bit of a crazy trip to get her here, but that's life in Alaska. A trip of a lifetime for Thomas, the trip for a new life for Tikaani.

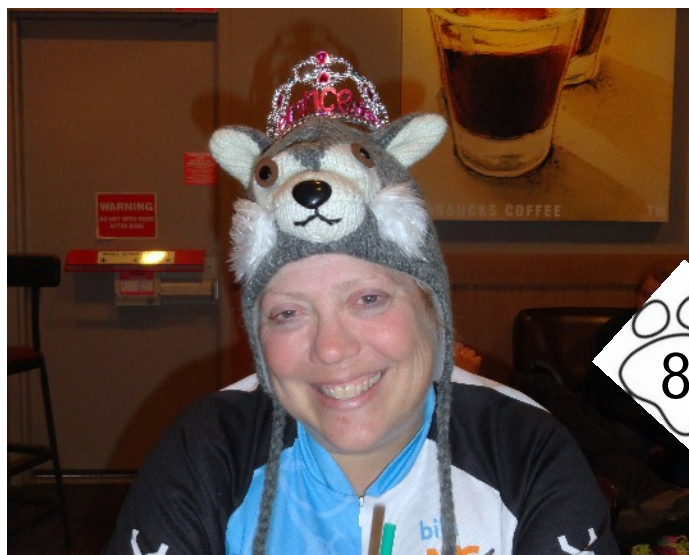


## Cindy Klettke: Christenson Awardee

Cindy Klettke has been a Washington Alaskan Malamute Adoption League (WAMAL) volunteer since the beginning of time. WAMAL time that is: she was an original board member in the late 90's and retired from the board about six years ago to spend more time biking, hiking, and snowshoeing.

Cindy has always had two malamutes of her own, and has at times had two or three foster dog in her 1000 square foot home in the Seattle area. I recently asked Cindy how many dogs she has fostered for WAMAL. She stopped counting at 40! For years Cindy has been our go-to volunteer for injured, terminally ill, and very shy dogs needing special attention. Using her special way especially with shy and scaredy dogs, she has been able to change them to adoptable dogs every time. Her prescription for doing this is hike, hike, hike with a group of malamute and husky friends, and using a unique combo of wearing them out while socializing them in a comfortable setting. Cindy is the "Foster Mama" referred to in the recent book titled, *Kuruk: The Little Bear That Could* which details her work with one of the mal mixes brought down after the large Matanuska-Susitna seizure. She is also the current foster mom for Strider, an extremely shy first-release Aluk mal. Strider escaped from a former foster in November of 2012 while on his way to Cindy's house. She spent the next month searching for him, staying calm and giving advice to the neighborhood he adopted. Eventually friends and volunteers helped her trap him. She spent every moment at home for months with Strider literally leashed to her waist so he had to socialize. We are all pretty sure Strider will stay with Cindy.

It's hard to describe Cindy Klettke, incredible human being, in one paragraph. I have never, ever seen her without a smile on her face. She is kind to everyone she meets, is always willing to join any event including fundraising bike rides for MS, volunteering at the Iditarod, or yearly trips to remote foreign countries where she visits shelters. She takes the time to send kind messages to people when they have a loss, and is always available to help or just talk life situations out. We can't imagine anyone who deserves to be recognized more for doing what she loves without expecting special recognition for it.



## Tammie Variano: Christenson Awardee

Illinois Alaskan Malamute Rescue Association (IAMRA) is very blessed to have Tammie Variano as a volunteer. She works tirelessly in all aspects of our rescue, from fostering special needs and sanctuary dogs, to fundraising for our adoptable dogs, and everything in between. She has done countless transports and home visits, helped bottle feed litters around the clock, and held hands and shed tears with those who have had to say good-bye to their best furry friends at life's end. Tammie has worked with us for a decade, never wavering in her dedication to helping the homeless malamutes. She is truly a jack of all trades when it comes to rescue, always willing to roll up her sleeves and help, in whatever area is needed, from handling intakes and adoptions to grooming and poop scooping. IAMRA could not save so many without her help – she is the one in a million volunteer that never lets go of the leash.

We're especially proud and grateful for Tammie's work developing our Sanctuary Sweetheart program, so that we can help old, infirm dogs live out their lives with love, kindness, and dignity. Tammie's boy Wookie was one of the Sanctuary Sweetheart program's founding dogs. Now, thanks to Tammie, we have an annual book auction, "The Educated Malamute" – fondly called Wooks Books, every autumn to help raise funds for the Sanctuary Sweethearts in our care.

To read more about the Sanctuary Sweetheart program, visit our website at <http://www.iamra.org/sanctuary-sweethearts.html>

Our heartfelt congratulations to Tammie for being a 2013 Christenson award recipient. We certainly cannot imagine a volunteer more dedicated and hardworking than she is. We hope we are blessed with her help for decades to come!



## Annual Auction

Be sure to watch for the AMAL eBay auction starting Nov 29 and ending Dec 8. This is the time to shop for all your holiday gifts for your Malamute-loving friends and family as well as for yourself. Check out the AMAL Facebook page for more info and links to our auction.

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Alaskan-Malamute-Assistance-League-AMAL/194851373896856>





## Special Dedications

July 1 - October 31, 2013

In memory of Tucker & Huey, by Stephanie McAndrews  
In loving memory of Tucker & Huey so that other malamutes will have  
loving furever homes, by Kristin Fox & Beowulf

In memory of Tucker & Huey, by husky mama Kristen Grimes

In memory of Tucker & Huey, by Bud & Jeanette Slusher

In memory of Alice Schlicker, by Susan Syracuse

In memory of Alice Schlicker, by Sherrie & Steven Capp

In memory of Alice Schlicker, by Laurie Thomas

In memory of Alice Schlicker, by Norm & Tami Noack

In honor of Honey Bear Ford, Sugar Bear Ford & Sunsha Bear Ford,  
by Patricia & Thomas Ford

In honor of Susan Conant's signed book donation, by Lynne Anderson

In memory of our beloved Nikko, by Cindy & Tom Fletcher

In memory of Asta & Indy, by Cindy & Tom Fletcher

In honor of Beau (Rambo) our Aluk baby boy, by John & Ginny Rivielle

In honor of Summit of the High Desert, by Michael Paul

In support of Takaani's ferry fee, by happy tails

In honor of Ginny & Jim Kirkham - Chukchi A. Mal

In honor of Denali & Vinson, by Debra Castro

In support of AMAL through their membership drive, by AMCA

Thanks in support of AMAL for all the work done for the MT malamutes & for getting Sura to our family - we couldn't love her more!  
Robin & Steve McKenzie

From the group of mal owners from the American Dog Show Judges Advanced Institute in support of rescue,  
by Shiloh & David Bedford of Black Ice Malamutes

In memory of Denise Allen Miller, by her dear friend Annette Gregory -malamute owner for over 35 years

In support of the Chris & Betty Christenson Award, by Dr. Norm Pomerance

Domain registration in support of AMAL, Paul Ganci

In memory of Maverick, Snowbuc's Top Gun CGC, by Maria & Rolfe Dinwoodie

In support of AMAL & affiliate rescues, by Holly Levinter



*PICTURE: Farmer, Joe Henderson's lead dog, during an expedition to the far north of Alaska - the North Slope area with the Brook's Range mountains in the background...  
-Permission to use through Angus Mills Photography*

### Aragorn...One Year Later

Remember Aragorn from the Montana seizure, who got loose and was "on the run" for almost a month? Born into a neglectful situation, Aragorn—now Shadow—had been extremely shy. When Aragorn was first "caught" after his golf course adventure (where he'd hung out with a pack of coyotes), all his progress seemed to have evaporated. He was terrified to enter his crate, and also terrified to leave it. Thank heavens he had other dogs to watch and emulate—the very best thing for a shy dog. Shadow has been slowly coming around, and is nothing short of a joy.

Have you ever experienced that beautiful, naïve quality when a shy dog deals with new situations? Barking at himself in the mirror, thinking his reflection is another dog? Watching television with a dog who thinks that the images on the screen are real? Seeing a silent dog find his voice by surprise and then learn to love it? Shadow's sibling, Sam, helped him find his voice. Shadow and Sam now sing for their dinner! He sings when it's time to go for a double-leashed walk. He grumbles or noses you in the bottom when he wants attention, and he bats you with a paw when he wants you to play with him. Shadow's favorite lady is Sasha, a blue-eyed Siberian who is larger than he is. He emulates her every move...she lies down, he lies down with her. She pulls while walking, he pulls. She begs for food, he begs for food.

Shadow's gotten a little better at having strangers approach him while on a walk, and he seems like a "normal dog" at home. He's probably never going to be a "cured" dog...it just doesn't work that way. When a dog is not socialized as a puppy, it creates lasting problems. For dogs like these, sanctuary in a calm home is really the best option! Routine and certainty build courage.



For a look at Shadow and other IAMRA Sanctuary dogs, visit: <http://www.iamra.org/sanctuary-sweethearts.html>

Kelly and Nick, Shadow's humans



*This ad had more than 2400 Facebook hits over two days!!!*

I used to think the worst thing in life was to end up all alone. It's not. The worst thing in life is to end up with people who make you feel all alone.

- Robin Williams  
shared by DeeJay

**Rescue a Malamute**  
visit [www.malamuterescue.org](http://www.malamuterescue.org)  
to find your local rescue

## ***New! Advertisements***

Effective with the next issue, AMAL Tales will accept advertising to offset the newsletter's cost. All advertising must be on topics related to Malamutes or dogs in some way.

Advertising rates appear below.

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](mailto:jywickrph@aol.com) for advertising information.

## ***Pondering the Newsletter***

Printing, mailing materials, postage...it all adds up. Many of our members receive the newsletter electronically, but we still mail quite a few copies. If you are still receiving the newsletter by snail-mail, please consider changing to electronic distribution. Every penny saved is another penny that can go directly to Malamutes in need.

To switch to electronic distribution, please contact [membership@AMAL.org](mailto:membership@AMAL.org)

### ***New Newsletter Schedule***

AMAL has changed its newsletter publication schedule. We now publish in November, February, May and August.

**Next issue: February 2014**

**Contribution deadline: January 21, 2014**





## Stormy Beginnings, Happy Endings

Courtney Bolin-Walker

During the weekend of October 20, several of the famed Montana (Aluk) malamutes reunited at a barbecue in Helena, MT. The event marked two years since the seizure of more than 160 Alaskan malamutes. It was particularly heartwarming to see so many of the dogs express pure joy when they saw and recognized the amazing people who took care of all them during the seemingly interminable wait for the final verdict in the case against the breeder.

Grand dame Cinder and “dogfather” Don Sitchy (aka The Situation) presided over all the younger dogs while the humans traded stories of triumph about their adopted malamutes. Many malamutes discovered their furry soulmates at the barbecue. With so many stunningly gorgeous snow dogs around, it was to be expected that the flirting would be rampant. The careful matching of all of the Aluks with their forever or foster families clearly paid off. Every human there was highly attuned to his or her adopted malamute. Each individual dog’s needs were met with compassion. It is this kindness that has so benefited every one of the Montana malamutes.

On a personal note, I was wholly thankful to finally meet Bob Sutherland and everyone else who was instrumental in saving these lives! It was an honor to meet Bill Peterson who, along with his wife, filed the complaint that opened the door to legal action. Every dog I met was a testament to the quality of care and the volume of love in each adoptive home. We are spread across the continent, but we are all so close because of these resilient, magnificent mally-woos of ours. May we all have the opportunity to enjoy a gathering like this in the future!





## *AMAL Member Confesses Internet Addiction*

**Tanya Holbrook**

So.....it all began when I started looking into Malamute rescue online. I came across Moonsong. Its site became somewhat of an addiction. Every night before bed I would look at all the darling malamutes needing homes. I was happy to see several were being fostered. Quite often, I would wake my husband to show him dogs. He asked me to please stop looking—he knew if I had my way I would take them all. At the time, we had our older lady Mal Kaya and our newly rescued male Miko.

A few months passed, and our beloved Kaya left us. Thank goodness we had Miko, as he was quickly becoming a very special member of our family. After a very little time went by, I begged my husband to possibly consider rescuing a female. He said OKAY and I was beyond excited. (He was too, trust me, with that smile of his) We looked at web site one more time and found Kira, who was in foster care. Sadly, as soon as we showed interest in her, the family decided to keep her. I was devastated but also thrilled she had a permanent home.

I asked Moonsong to contact us the minute a female came into the facility. Sure enough, the cutest Malamute came along. We immediately called and arranged all the paper work. Then, we drove 100 miles to pick her up in Pocatello, ID. I will never forget that day we saw her. Her foster mommy cried as she said good-bye and I cried because she was crying and I was so happy. We named her Maki and she bonded right away with our male, Miko. I knew this completed our pack. We are the luckiest family to have received such a wonderful, loving girl. So, that's our story and one more thing.....I still look at the web site every night.



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