

AMAL TALES

November 2016

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: HELLO AMAL!

I am very excited and honored to ease myself into the position of AMAL President. As someone that has been rescuing Alaskan Malamutes since the mid 1980's, I realize that although the work can be very rewarding, it can easily become very overwhelming.

In the coming months I hope to contact our affiliates to gain new ideas as well as seeking solutions to old ones. I completely welcome your input and will make myself accessible and open to your suggestions. AMAL needs the help of all of our members.

Hopefully, knowing that you have a willing support system will make your efforts somewhat easier. I will strive to make sure that you have that support.

Fortunately, AMAL also has a fantastic board of directors who are all very devoted to the breed that we all love, the Alaskan Malamute.

In addition, we all owe a thank you to Andrea Allen and Tanja Gube for graciously donating their time. Sharon Nichols deserves a huge "Thank You" for her hard work coordinating our 2016 Rescue Parade, auction, the wine sales, and AMAL Booth. Sharon and her husband, Paul, took complete charge of everything. They spent all day, every day in the AMAL booth, just about single handedly making it the great success. Armed with beautiful books created by Sharon Houston, adopters left with gift bags, beautiful ribbons and dog sashes, a remarkable souvenir book, and wonderful memories.



*Artwork: A gift
from John Laracy*



Alaskan Malamute Assistance League

We Pull For Them



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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://alaskanmalamuteassistanceleague.org/about-amal/donate>.

NOVEMBER Cover Girl: Lexie

On our cover and pictured below, 11-year-old Lexie enjoys the fall at her foster home.

Moonsong Malamute Rescue took in Lexie and her brother Fox from a kill shelter. They had been surrendered by their life long owners who were moving. Both dogs were borderline morbidly obese, but that is changing now. Fox was adopted and is losing weight and regaining mobility. Lexie is still looking for her "forever" home and she too is losing weight and enjoys her daily walks. Many thanks to AMAL who helped support vet costs for diagnostic procedures!



AMAL PROFIT & LOSS SUMMARY

July 1, 2016 – September 30, 2016

INCOME	
Total Income	
• Includes all quarterly donations, dues & matching funds	\$ 1,883.63
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 1,883.63
EXPENSES	
• Bank Service Charges	12
• Donations Out	769.87
• Insurance (Directors & Liability)	1715
• Newsletter	253.25
• Total Veterinary	1,553.73
TOTAL EXPENSES	4,303.85
Quarterly NET	\$ 2,420.22
Checkbook balance (as of September 30, 2016)	\$ 63,453.76



Alaskan Malamute Assistance League

..... We Pull For Them

AMAL Membership Application/Renewal

July 2016 - June 2017

Go to <http://tinyurl.com/hml3fef> to renew on line!

Name/s: _____
Street: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
(HINT: Use a return address label)
Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

\$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. Those non-U.S. AMAL members who want CDs shipped to them should add \$10 for postage cost consideration. CD Pedigree online form: <http://tinyurl.com/hml3fef>

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

Be Glad You have a Malamute!

Christine Kubis

- If you had a **Griffon Bruxellois**, you would probably be cleaning up accidents. They are remarkably hard to house train, and just like it shows in the movie "As Good as it Gets," (Verdell is a Griffon Bruxellois) they will stare right at you and complete the job while you yell, "NO!"
- If you had an **Anatolian Shepherd**, you would spend a few nights a month storming the neighborhood looking for your companion. These dogs have been known to run away from home about twice a week!
- If you had a **Yorkie**, your dog would get more haircuts than you do! These pups require trimming every four to six weeks. Don't you wish you could be pampered once a month?
- If you had a **Samoyed**, you would vacuum twice a day. Their long white fur sticks to everything and forms hair balls under every piece of furniture. Watch out, they often get lost in the snow!
- If you had a **Dachshund**, you would likely have to share your bed, pillows and blankets. These heat seeking badger hunters like to burrow under the covers and steal your spot in bed!
- If you had a **Pug**, you would have to worry about their eyes popping out of their sockets—and their wrinkles require regular cleaning with a cotton swab.
- If you had a **Weimeriner**, you'd absolutely have to like to exercise. These dogs have lots of energy and require long walks.
- If you had a **Saint Bernard**, you wouldn't be able to host a barbeque. Just like in the movie "Beethoven," he or she would steal the food and cause a scene.

Malamutes NEVER have these problems, right? :)

AMAL Tales is the Alaskan Malamute Assistance League's newsletter, published quarterly in the spring, summer, fall and winter. All rights reserved. Copyright 2016.

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

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2016 Christenson Award Winners

Washington Alaskan Malamute Adoption League's (WAMAL's) dynamic duo—**Tara Cosgrove and Matt Vaughan**—expend tireless, extraordinary efforts. Involved in nearly every aspect of rescue operations, they are among WAMAL's most reliable volunteers. They become acquainted with each malamute, conducting individualized training and exercise programs. Matt often roller-blades with WAMAL's malamutes, providing fantastic engagement and energy release for these active dogs (it is not only an impressive sight but quite brave!). In addition, Tara and Matt assist with vet visits, typically requiring immediate coordination and availability. This significantly increases adoptability of WAMAL's malamutes.

Equally important is their work with applicants, adopters, and other volunteers. Their enthusiasm is contagious. They frequently train and mentor new volunteers, imparting their expert knowledge of the breed and each individual malamute. They also introduce dogs and adoptive families and complete home visits. In the words of one WAMAL Board member: "I know I can always rely on Matt and Tara to step up whenever needed." This statement captures their dedication perfectly and indicates how highly deserving they are of this prestigious honor.



Kacy and Steve

Kacy Smith fell in love with the malamute breed while living in Alaska. Several years ago she moved to Idaho, and contacted Moonsong Malamute Rescue to begin fostering and volunteering. As would be expected, she is a "failed foster" and has adopted Faina from Moonsong. Who can resist having a malamute of his or her own?

She is an invaluable foster. She goes above and beyond to make foster dogs feel at home. She is diligent, taking dogs to required vet appointments, rehabilitation, and training. She has been very generous in that regard, paying for these out of her own pocket. She has been known to take 800 mile transport trips to make sure the rescue mal makes it safely to his/her new home. Considering our assistance area's immense size, transport is a huge thing! The care and love Kacy bestows on each and every rescue that comes into her home, no matter how briefly, makes a large impact on the rescued malamute.

Steve Carlston is married to Lorrann Carlston, a Moonsong Malamute Rescue board member. He has been extraordinarily supportive of all her endeavors with dog rescue: building additional kennel space, shoveling snow out of pens, and taking Lorrann to dinner when she's exhausted from all that goes with it!

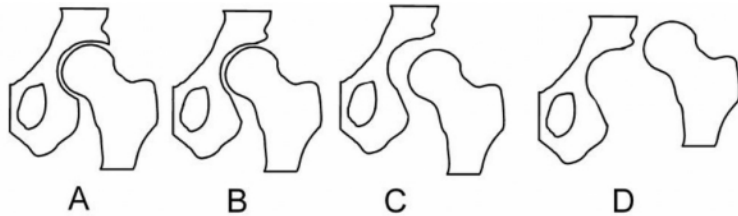
This award acknowledges his many, many trips to bring dogs into the rescue. Our huge assistance area poses real problems when urgent situations arise. Steve is always willing to dive in! He has driven thousands of miles to bring dogs to safety. We presented him with a Super Man T-Shirt; when a dog is in need and it's far, far, away we ask Super Man to shake out his cape! He always does!

Taysia Blue Rescue was only month's old and looking for volunteers and foster parents. A Craigslist ad found **Matthew Gugat**. He immediately fostered a dog and has had at least one foster in his home every day for the last five years. He is our go-to person for dog training and evaluations, and he typically accepts the most difficult dogs. He is also an adoption counselor, instrumental in developing training materials, writing job descriptions, refurbishing crates, generating donations, transporting, and providing emergency dog sitting. For example, one of our volunteers was diagnosed with leukemia and needed to spend four months in Houston. Matthew took in this volunteer's dog until he was well enough to have her home again.

Matthew pushes Taysia Blue Rescue to improve continuously. He is enrolled in Service Enterprise training with the hopes of passing certification for Taysia Blue Rescue as a Points of Light Service Enterprise Organization. Matthew has attended two animal welfare conferences and recently was recognized as generating the highest number of donations during a 24 hour giving event. Matthew takes on anything and everything thrown his way, and seems almost embarrassed by recognition. Matthew is just 27 years old.

The Christenson Award was established by Drs. Norm and Diane Pomerance in memory of Chris Christenson, husband to Betty Christenson, who started rescuing in North Texas and then broadened her scope. All the while Chris was at her side. He was the quiet presence, walking dogs, fixing coffee when there was a meeting, providing the calm in the storm that was Betty. Chris died of a heart attack while he and Betty were exercising dogs. Betty said, "He never let go of the leash."

Canine hip dysplasia (CHD) is common. Certain breeds are more prone to CHD, and Alaskan malamutes are at risk. This joint disease occurs when the bones in the ball-and-socket hip joint interact incorrectly. In a normal hip, the head of the femur fits perfectly into the acetabulum (socket on the pelvic bone) to create free movement at the joint. Spongy cartilage lines the socket to cushion the area. A ligament connects the two bones while other muscles and connective tissues support the joint.



Schematic depiction of hip joint structures' positions in hip dysplasia by Londenp
Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hip_dysplasia#/media...

Canine Hip Dysplasia: The Ins and Outs

Melissa Laracy

Dogs with CHD have malformed hip joints, resulting in physical separation of the bones, cartilage changes, and hip remodeling. Supportive tissues in the joints become loose, damaging the cartilage. In addition, the socket becomes too shallow and the femoral head too flat. This results in an unstable joint that is easily inflamed and painful.

A number of genetic and environmental factors collide to result in CHD. A complex hereditary pattern involving multiple genes exists. Affected dogs are born with normal hips that develop abnormally during periods of rapid growth. Early onset CHD usually occurs after four months of age. However, most dogs don't present symptoms until much later in life, after years of stress on the joint begin to take its toll.

Dogs without a family history of CHD are highly unlikely to be affected by the disease. Obesity, rapid growth, and over-exercising at a young age can increase CHD severity in genetically susceptible dogs. However, exercise is still vital for growing dogs! The key is to choose appropriate activities. Moderate exercise in the form of running or swimming can help build muscles and protect against CHD. Activities that involve jumping (e.g. Frisbee) put unnecessary force on and exacerbate degeneration of hip joints.

Malamutes at Risk. CHD is common in malamutes and all large breed dogs because of one factor: size. Obesity and rapid growth—especially at young age—increase risk for early development of CHD. The more a dog weighs, the more stress on his/her joints.

Table 1. CHD Symptoms

- Decreased activity or movement
- Reluctance to run, jump, or climb stairs
- Decreased range of motion in the hip joint
- Stiffness or difficulty rising
- Increased weight bearing on the forelimbs
- "Hip swivel" gait
- Tendency to bunny-hop up steps
- Loss of muscle over the hips and thighs
- Narrow stance in the hind limbs (i.e. back legs unnaturally close together)
- Grating, clicking, or popping sounds from the joints

Symptoms. Mostly, affected dogs will begin expressing pain and discomfort during/after exercise or first thing in the morning. Table 1 lists signs that may indicate that degeneration of the hip is worsening. Many owners attribute these symptoms to normal aging. If your malamute displays any of these symptoms – especially at a younger age – it's certainly worthwhile to bring him/her to the veterinarian to be examined.

Prevention. The best way to prevent or ameliorate CHD is through selective breeding. Weight management is the most important thing owners can do to keep their dogs healthy longer. Developing an exercise/nutrition plan with your veterinarian is the best way slow and prevent the progression in dogs who already have CHD.

Treatment options. Several surgical procedures can be used to treat CHD. It can also be managed medically with supplements, injectable osteoarthritis agents, and anti-inflammatory drugs. Lifestyle modifications are equally important. Weight control, daily low-impact exercise (walks, swimming, slow jogging), warmth, comfortable sleeping areas, using ramps, massage, and physical therapy are excellent ways to combat CHD's painful symptoms.

The decision to undergo surgery or use medication is based on a dog's size, age, intended function, CHD severity, degree of arthritis, personal preference, and financial considerations.



2016 AMCA Alaskan Malamute National Specialty

This year's Regional and National Specialty Shows were held October 23-29 at Hotel Elegante in beautiful Colorado Springs, CO. Its theme was "Let it Snow..." Rob Pratt was the AMCA Chairperson and Barbara White was Co-chair. The location was very convenient, and more than 206 dogs registered to participate.

AMAL activities included hosting the Regional Rescue Showcase, week-long fundraising at the AMAL Booth, and participation in the AMCA Auction. AMAL had some nice auction offerings (e.g. a framed Saturday Evening Post sled team picture, a hand crafted sled team metal rack, and a scarf and hat made of hand spun malamute undercoat fur) and sales items (e.g. sweatshirts and winter vests, flasks and ties with mal pictures on them and stuffed animal malamutes) that resulted in very good sales. Thanks to all this year's contributors!

AMCA included contact cards in the welcome bags. AMAL collected the cards and responded by providing screen/glass cleaners that Sylvia Bailey designed. Sylvia donated a weathervane that was raffled to people who completed the cards. The winner had to determine how to transport the weathervane to the United Kingdom, but she was thrilled to decide where to place it in her garden!

The AMAL Rescue Showcase started with a light picnic luncheon in an outdoor area, so the dogs were able to join their owners and meet other participants. Parade participants were able to mingle and munch a little lunch in a casual setting. The theme this year was Western, but not too "yahoo-ish." Sharon Huston and Karen Jordan arranged cute Western photo-op locations, complete with a signpost that had directions to malamute-related places and cold weather considerations. Rescue Showcase participants experienced many events associated with the actual dog show. Late in the afternoon, AMCA volunteers provided a little "fluffing and puffing" for the parade dogs. A practice run allowed participants to identify locations and feel comfortable with the actual event.

New AMAL President Tina Dunn and newly elected AMCA President Terry Toussant presented ribbons and awards to honorees and their dogs. Sharon Huston did a superb job on memory books that were given to the participants. They are lovely and include some interesting malamute facts. Our participants liked them very much.

Many of the pictures on these pages were taken by Karen Jordan. For additional information check the show web site:

<http://www.alaskanmalamutenationals.com/>



DOUBLING DONATIONS!



See if your employer offers an Employee Donation Matching program. If so, they may match your donation to AMAL and you can double the amount you donate to this wonderful breed.

Employers usually ask you to enroll before the end of the year, so be sure to look into it soon. The Human Resources Department should be able to inform you of your company's procedure.

Please feel free to direct questions to:
treasurer@malamuterescue.org.

SPECIAL DONATIONS



August 1, 2016 through October 31, 2016

In Memory of Stormy & Shadow, by Tom & Kathy Newcomb
In Honor of Lexxi (Kaytoo Winter Ascent), by Keith Butler
In Memory of Sally, Honey, Jim and Sara, by Cheryl Shelton
In Memory of Alcan California Highway Patrol "Trooper,"
beloved of friends and family, by Karen & Jeff
Richardson (For MUSH)
Just because I love mals!, by Susan & Steve Rich

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