

AMAL TALES

April, 2013

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*Sienna, an Aluk mal,
clearly comfortable
in her new home!*

President's Message:

Can't Thank You Enough!

First, I'd like to thank the folks of Helena for their support of the malamutes seized over a year ago. When I grew up in Montana, "neighbor" was a verb. It still is. If somebody needed help, you helped them. When the malamutes were brought into Helena, they needed help in a big way, and you stepped up and helped them. When rescue arrived in Helena, you helped us to help the malamutes. You housed us in your homes, made us meals, and often showed your appreciation with store discounts. When temperatures exceeded 100 degrees, you brought coolers of cold water. You said, "No thanks needed." What you did for us was incredible.

Gina Wiest, thank you for stepping up to the plate. You took in 161 malamutes. Eighteen were pregnant. Eighty-four arrived starved to the point of emaciation, weighing half of their ideal weight. Eventually, you became responsible for 213 malamutes. And, your home became my home away from home.

Owen and Chris, thank you for managing Malamute Village. Because of you, these malamutes had warm beds and were well fed and exercised. They thrived under your care.

Linda, Louise, and Jeanette, thank you for walking dogs every weekend for a year and using vacation time to help when necessary. The malamutes' significant growth started when your work with them began.

A huge thank-you to the person who spent every day with the malamutes for 9 or 10 months without a day off! Christine Stipich, your knowledge of the dogs, care and unending compassion for the dogs and AMAL's volunteers renders us speechless.

I've been involved in rescues of large numbers of animals for more than 31 years. All of them pale in comparison next to this one. Every time we visited, the malamutes were in better shape.

Finally, thank you to everyone else who helped with a hand, a handout, or a hand up. The rescue community and members of the national breed club appreciate your efforts. It really did take a village to raise a pack.

—Bob Sutherland, President, AMAL



Alaskan Malamute Assistance League

..... *We Pull For Them*

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president@malamuterescue.org

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vicepresident@malamuterescue.org

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treasurer@malamuterescue.org

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Membership

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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.

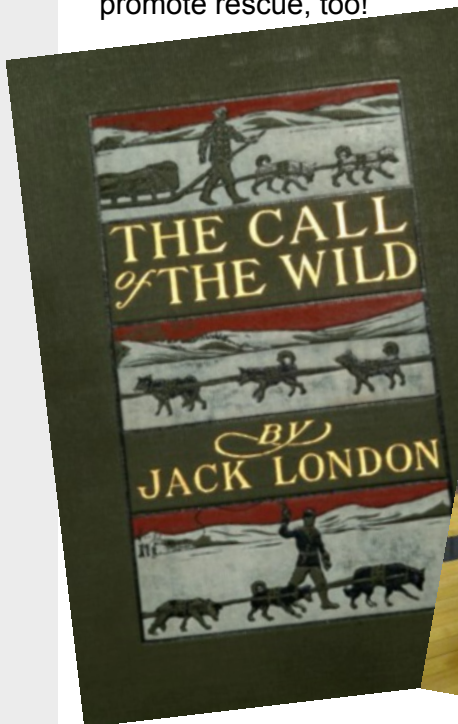
DONATE

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

Call of the Wild School: Promoting Rescue!

Every year Texas Alaskan Malamute Rescue (TAMR; <http://www.texalmal.org/>) is invited to Houston area schools along with Husky Haven rescue. Students enrolled in literature classes read "Call of the Wild" during the semester. The semester ends with our volunteers bringing a few of our dogs to do a presentation on Huskies and Malamutes for each class. One of TAMR's board members brings an old sled and harnesses for show-and-tell, too. At the end of each session, the kids "meet and greet" with the dogs.

It's a great way to show off the breed we love so much and promote rescue, too!



Maddex

Maddex, (formerly Mattie), is still overcoming his timidity, but has made amazing progress. For four weeks he would not even be in the same room as my four-year-old son, Tanner. Now they're inseparable. He's left paw prints on our hearts...FUR-ever!

~The Clelands, Maddex's foster-turned-forever family



Maddex

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

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Sienna



Two-year-old Sienna (formerly Peaches) was one of the 33 original Malamutes released by her owner in the Montana Aluk Kennel cruelty case in 2012. In July, she came into TAMR fostercare in El Paso. Extremely fearful of humans and noise, she had no socialization-, leash- or house-training. Sienna was missing half of her tail and weighed only 30 lbs. She was rehabilitated for three months and adopted by Mike and Megan P., a great El Paso couple experienced in Northern breeds.

Sienna's fosters, Dan and Glenda Herrin, are now fostering a second Aluk mal, Rosetta.



Special Donations

January 1 - March 31, 2013

- For care & support of the Aluk dogs, by Deborah Bachard
- In memory of Honey Bear, Sugar Bear, and Sunsha Bear, by Patricia & Thomas Ford
- In memory of Duchess & Berr, by Carole Berry
- For the Aluk dogs, in memory of beloved Shelby, by Charlene Babyak



Livia

Sylvia Bailey

This is Livia, formerly Tickki, who was scheduled to be euthanized before Angela Brown took her in. WAMAL pulled her from a Washington, DC shelter and transported her to Seattle after AMAL offered to help with boarding if needed. Livia took a plane across the country, a car from the airport to Holiday Kennels, and was introduced to her new parents and two pack members the same day.

The Blaisdells had plenty of Malamute experience, but also some interesting and tough issues to work through. Tina Robbins, who had done their home visit, helped with the assimilation. From start to finish, no one ever gave up on Tickki. Now she lives the life of a princess (and apparently a pig too).

I appeared at the office the next morning with my eyes half open and my brother said, "Geez, was it worth it?" Ummmm....YES!!!!



2013 Alaskan Malamute National Specialty

October 6-13

Oconomowac, WI

<http://www.alaskanmalamute-nationals.com/>



Double Trouble

Motsey and Talla

When Washington Alaskan Malamute Adoption League (WAMAL; <http://www.wamal.com/>) heard about a bonded pair of Malamutes in Utah that would not make it to the adoption floor, we weren't sure we could help. We were paying to board many more dogs than normal after taking in a group of the dogs from the Aluk Seizure. With help from a Moonsong volunteer, the dogs were assessed. We then contacted AMAL to see if they could offer assistance towards boarding for the pair so we could extricate them from the shelter ASAP. The YES answer came quickly, and with the help again from Moonsong and WAMAL volunteers, the pair came to us for rehoming.

About the same time we received an application from a family who had just lost their Malamute littermates within weeks of each other. The North family sounded perfect, and they offered to drive more than five hours to meet "the Twins" as we called them. It was a match made in Heaven. Look to the right for an update from their new forever family.

THANK YOU to our great friends at AMAL and Moonsong, and to the North family for your support in saving these two very special Malamutes!

Sylvia Bailey

WAMAL

Worth the Extra Effort

The Norths would like to let everyone associated with Motsey and Talla know that the two of them have had free rein over the back yard for a week and a half. They are so creative; they devised two escape routes into the neighborhood. They really wanted to visit the dogs three houses down. However, knowing they should not be roaming the neighborhood, we acquired a kennel as a temporary measure.

Now, with a new taller fence and the brick wall no longer accessible to climb over, they roam their own territory with free will.

They've been spending their first afternoons chasing each other in a huge circle around the pool and pond. They've blazed their own trail and are making the most of it.

The evenings are spent in the family room with everyone. During walks to the beach, they like to explore the driftwood. However, they're not too sure about the waves yet.

We'll keep you all posted on their ventures.

Next, it's off to obedience school for a little training.

Ken and Sadhia

Motsey and Talla

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!

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 electronically.

\$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: _____

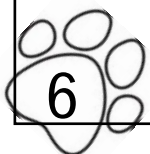
Membership / Donation Payment

Total Amount Enclosed (membership + donations): \$ ____

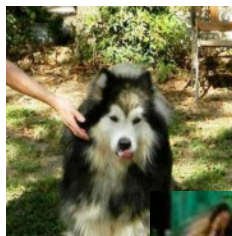
* Include AMAL Memberships and other donations all in one check --- simply designate the amounts on this form.

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



An International Before-and-After



Billee: Incredibly, Billee had one sponsor from the UK who paid his transport from South Korea to Texas, where his adopter lives. After several complications, including a typhoon hitting Seoul and delaying take off, Billee is happily living with several other Mals.

Two Mals cross the Pacific to new homes!

Beast: Thanks to several donations from private individuals, Beast was able to catch a ride to Detroit as "baggage" with someone traveling from South Korea to the US. His American name is Samson and he is enjoying life with his new family.

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.

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 at jywickrph@aol.com for advertising information.

Polyneuropathy

Our January issue covered this disorder in detail. Judith Silver provides an update and some new information on page 7 of this issue.

Please note that the non-invasive cheek swab test referred to in the January 2013 issue is now available through the University of Minnesota

Leo: Three Months Later Judith Silver

In our last issue, I introduced you to hereditary polyneuropathy (PN), a genetic disorder affecting the nervous and neuromuscular systems that usually starts before age two. (See page 6 of the January 2013 issue of AMAL Tails.) I'm familiar with this condition because my wonderful malamute, Leo, has it. Veterinarians at the University of Florida have now examined Leo. Here's what I learned.

Consider Your State Veterinary School

State veterinary schools—nonprofit facilities staffed with underpaid, overworked and absolutely brilliant animal experts and their students—offer remarkable care. The staff labors for the love of animals and access to premiere facilities and equipment. We started in an exam room the size of my living room (big!), and met with cardiology, orthopedics, anesthesiology, neurology, gastro/nutrition, dermatology and acupuncture. Leo's visit took two days and cost \$1600 including low-cost medication. He's now a registered patient and will receive future care there. This was well worth the drive. I will never again use a local vet when I suspect anything serious.

Pain Can Be in Nerves or Muscles

Orthopedics explained Leo's degeneration in his hind limbs. Leo has "laxity" (weak muscle tissue); his disease slowly affects his muscle tissue causing it to disappear (this looks a lot like hip dysplasia). We previously thought his pain was caused by botched cuts in his nerve during the biopsy, but medications that should have worked on the nerves did not. Based on the biopsy location, they advised me that the cut into his muscle is causing his pain and thus was irreparable. Hopefully, it will resolve slowly if the muscle regrows.

Exercise is Essential

The nutritionist focused on essential limb exercise to convert fat into muscle and counteract degeneration. Leo, weighing 98 lbs, needs 80 grams of protein daily to maintain muscle. He'll take lutein supplements to promote muscle formation with no reported side effects. I'd been concerned that stomach pressure and slow digestion was causing his shallow breathing. Normal Arctic canines move food through the body in 24 hours or less, but if it takes longer (as it does in dogs with PN), I learned it doesn't affect other organs or cause abnormal strain.

Western Medicine Specialists Can't Always Help

Neurology confirmed my research indicating western medicine has no treatment and deferred to their acupuncture/integrated medicine specialist. They did suggest giving Leo 250 mg vitamin C twice daily if his



PN is CMT1-based (vs. CMT4-based). There is no way to tell which mutation your dog has but this supplement can't hurt.

Eastern Medicine Offers Options

Although Leo visited local acupuncturists for a few months (that was only thing that helped his left leg pain), now he sees a nationwide expert at the University of Florida every six weeks. I've had to educate myself on eastern medicine, since it's the only option in PN. It doesn't include concepts of curable or incurable. It works with Yin (Light)/Yang (Water) and balance of the flow of the body's organs. Thus combining Chinese Herbs, dry needle treatments, electrolysis and aqua therapy with regular visits to Gainesville, we hope to extend Leo's quality and length of life.

Luckily, Leo has had good pet insurance. Leo just turned six and we hope for a few more years of happiness.

Bacon Bites (Super fast in a food processor!)

Ingredients:

- 3 cups whole wheat flour
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1 egg
- 1/4 cup bacon grease and/or vegetable oil
- 3-4 slices cooked bacon, crumbled
- 1/2 cup cold water

Store in freezer!

Directions:

Grind cooked bacon into small pieces in food processor. Add the rest of ingredients and pulse until thoroughly mixed.

Fast way: Pat the dough onto several greased cookie sheets, about 1/4 inch thick. Score with a pizza cutter and bake at 325° for 40-50 minutes, or until golden brown and dry. Break apart.

Cute way: Roll out on a floured surface to 1/4 inch thickness. Cut out with doggie-themed cookie cutters. Place close together on greased cookie sheets, bake at 325° for 30-40 minutes, or until golden brown and dry.



Canine Caper Ends Wet, Ends Well

Aragorn, a young male Malamute from the Montana rescue operation, found his way to Illinois Alaskan Malamute Rescue Association (IAMRA; <http://www.iamra.org/>) Like many Montana mals, his main problem was fear of people. He stayed in foster care for several months, and was adopted. A few days into his new life, a leash clip malfunctioned and...he was off!

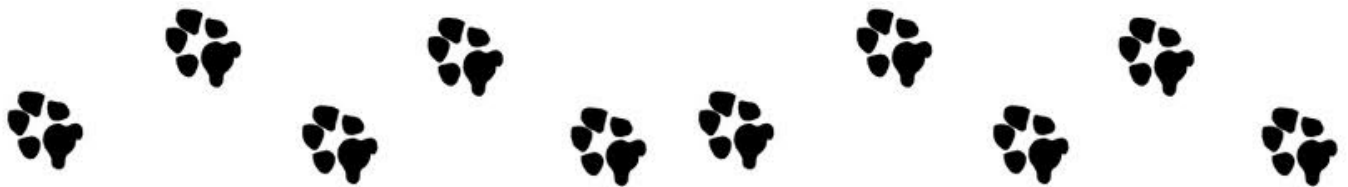
Hands and paws joined to find him. On Day 1, Aragorn was sighted here and there, but eluded capture. Day 2, IAMRA welcomed other volunteer rescuers from the Mini-Mushers at Adopt a Husky, Inc. In one afternoon, they fielded 100 calls from concerned neighbors and police. Finally, Aragorn found refuge at the White Deer Run Golf Course in Vernon Hills, taking full advantage of its open spaces, hiding places, and ponds (for a little R&R paddling from time to time).

IAMRA set up base at Kevin and Cindy's, and the golf course owners provided golf carts for volunteers. Golf course staff actively search with us, and Kevin and Cindy's dog Kona was spot-on in terms of alerting when Aragorn was near. And the golfers? They allowed volunteers to "play through" in pursuit of Aragorn.

It **only** took three weeks—21 days—to capture him. A very few skilled volunteers could feed him—if they lay on their stomachs and extended their arms. He'd play with Siberian Huskies Cleo and Sasha, who remained on extended leads. On Day 21, Aragorn played hard with a new canine volunteer, Marci, then headed to the duck pond and plunged in. Marci's handler was able to toss a loop from the far end of Marci's lead around Aragorn. A good Samaritan neighbor ran through the soggy soil in a business suit carrying a crate, and Aragorn was secure again. He attracted quite a crowd as folks learned that the golf course caper ended.



Aragorn:
No More
Golfing!



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