

AMAL TALES

August, 2014

The AMAL board welcomes two new directors, Michael Roach and Vicky Meluso. Michael provides a brief biography elsewhere in the newsletter. Most of the AMAL community knows Vicky Meluso as coordinator for Illinois Alaskan Malamute Rescue.

We thank two outgoing directors, Bob Sutherland and Susan Conant, for their service. Bob will always be remembered for his role in the Aluk seizure. Susan was the last member of AMAL's founding board serving malamutes both on the Alaskan Malamute Protection League and AMAL boards. Her Holly Winter mysteries are recommended reading for malamute lovers.



Mike Roach with
Bettie Page

President's Message: The New Guy is Here

Hello AMAL Members!

I would like to express how humble and truly honored I am to be given this opportunity to serve the Alaska Malamute Assistance League Board and Membership. I have had the privilege of sharing almost my entire lifetime with furry family members. Over those years I have come to adore the northern dog breeds, especially the malamute teddy bears that we all love so much!

Please help me in acknowledging the Board's vision, dedication and hard work and particularly Bob Sutherland's leadership over the last few years. Who could have ever anticipated the substantial effort and needs that arose during Project Malamute, not to mention the exceptional job AMAL and its affiliates did for the ALUK mals?

Me in a nutshell... I was born in '59 in Toronto, Ontario; I moved to Puerto Rico as a baby and then to Washington DC before landing in Omaha, Nebraska at the age of 10. Love the Midwest for its people and culture... don't like the Midwest for its puppy mills. My favorite word is "Done," followed by "tolerance."

About 10 years ago I met a spitfire of a lady that told me early on that she "had no use for dogs." Six years later she had four huskies and couldn't live without them. We love them all, but number three was a sassy little husky we named Taysia Blue. When we met her she was just a few days away from being euthanized at a local shelter. She was prone to seizures and had bad megaesophagus and had lived on a chain most of her life. We hoped to give her a wonderful life for the few months or a year that she would still be with us. Tay gave us 5 years of love and sassiness, but perhaps most importantly that little old lady inspired us to start Taysia Blue Rescue.

We have two Mallies, Mr. Mackey... a wooly redhead boy who caters to whatever his Mama needs. And of course little miss Bettie Page, pictured with me above and born of Aluk Mal Rosetta about a month or so after the seizure. Our story appears on page 2 of this issue.

—Michael Roach, 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

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

This One

I was groggy when I woke up in the recovery room, a bit confused but pain-free for the first time in years and years. I presumed correctly the back surgery had gone well and I was looking forward to being able to live life fully again.

My selfless, loving bride smiled at me. She was on her phone, a rescue call of course. Well not really. She was on the phone trying to find a volunteer to take me home because we had a dog flying in. The surgery had taken longer than we thought. She knew I would be fine, but the dog needed to be picked up at the airport at noon.

I laughed, looked at her as I shook my head and said, "I can go to the airport with you." So with a little help, they loaded me into the Prius and off we went. I seriously do not recall the drive to the airport.

We arrived at the building one goes to in Omaha when a dog arrives, and I joked that I would "wait in the car." In my side view mirror that reflected the loading dock, I watched Jackie enter the building. I checked my phone to see what business I had missed, glancing in the mirror every now and again. Good, no missed emails or phone calls .

I glanced into the mirror again, then I saw this confident little dog bounce out of the building with my wife in tow. I had but one thought. "I love her."

She had come to us from Montana, the eighth dog Taysia Blue had pulled from Operation Malamute. But this one was different, this one was already home. This little pocket malamute stole my heart from the very moment I saw her in the mirror. This one, the connection between us was instant and forever.

Born a few weeks after the seizure , she was so dainty that the Lewis and Clark Humane Society in Helena called her Bambi. I'm certain that they laughed (and cursed) at her daily. She is now our little Bettie Page, aka Bettie Boopers, Boop, Boopie Doop and "BP" (Bettie has Mega-Esophagus, so every day brings a new "environmental disaster.")

This one little mally girl. Has rescued me. Has touched my heart. This one.

Furriest wishes,
Michael Roach
Co-Founder, Taysia Blue Rescue in Nebraska





Ingrid Simpson: A Sad Farewell

Ingrid Simpson, founder of POLARIS Rescue, died suddenly on Sunday morning, June 1, 2014. In Fort Collins, Colorado.

She leaves a legacy of dog rescue—she started POLARIS with Siberian Huskies more than 20 years ago and later asked Paul Ganci and Sharon Nichols to help her with Alaskan malamutes.

Ingrid arranged for several dogs who played roles in the movie *Eight Below* to be adopted. She loved the dogs and found it difficult to reduce the time she devoted to them as medical issues surfaced for her. She lost her son a few years ago and never fully recovered from that experience. She leaves her loving husband, Joe, her daughter, Missy and her good friend, Chris - who was like a son to her.

RIP, Ingrid! Your efforts have helped inspire volunteers to rescue hundreds of dogs and offer educational services to those owners in need.

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

Kathy & Joel Allen

Our household operates poorly as a single-malamute home. We've had pairs in one form or another since 1999 and it's too calm without "the dance" (the tactics that go on right before a toy swap). After several months of a single-mal existence, Drakko remained in a funk. We approached Drakko's alum, CHAAMP, in search of a female. Following much discussion and a meet-and-greet, Ciena—one of the Texas Seven—joined our clan.

With much upheaval in her recent past, Ciena struggles with transitions. We wondered how she'd do as an indoor dog. Thankfully, she's a quick learner; food goes a long way in assisting the process. Unfortunately, we're slower learners, and a few house training accidents could have been avoided if we'd caught the signs sooner—live and learn!

Ciena mastered stairs in a few days, despite a giggle-inducing initial technique. She only notices ceiling fans if they're NOT moving, which strikes us as odd, since Drakko has the opposite reaction! She treasures early morning walks with mom, and walks like a queen, although clipping the leash to her collar is a challenge. She's quick and just when you think you've got it all together—*zip*—she's darted away!

Every time she lies down she lets out a moan— we're not sure why but it sure makes us laugh!

Ciena's comfortable in the yard, bounding and playing when we're out together. We're hopeful that Drakko will follow Ciena's cue since he only likes to play in the yard if it's snow-covered. Conversely, Drakko tolerates fast-moving people and loud noises, and we hope Ciena will follow his lead. We still have a journey ahead, like learning to enjoy a car ride (walking past a car is now only slightly scary).

Our family is once again vibrant. Drakko has emerged from his funk and is back to bounding full speed through the house, and the complete joy on Ciena's face when she's running in the yard fills our hearts.

Megaesophagus: A Surmountable Challenge

Jackie Roach

"Help! My six-year-old dog was just diagnosed with megaesophagus. The vet doesn't know enough about this disorder to help her and suggested euthanasia. What can I do?"

I hear this all too often. I have been blessed to have two dogs diagnosed with megaesophagus (ME). Management of this disorder is challenging and frustrating. I feel so strongly that these dogs can live happy lives, I am compelled to share what I've learned so that I might help someone else in a similar situation. Educating others about this disorder can save lives and diminish frustrations.

Two of the Aluk Malamutes—Bettie and Sura—were diagnosed with ME from birth. They are both adopted and thriving in Omaha. This article will offer you a quick glimpse into this disease.

ME is difficult to diagnose and frequently misunderstood by the veterinary community, but many of these pets can live relatively normal lives. Essentially, the muscles of the esophagus fail and cannot move food or water into the stomach. Imagine a balloon that had been inflated and now hangs limp. Food sits in the esophagus rather than reaching the stomach.

ME can occur at any age. My Siberian husky contracted megaesophagus late in life. In the case of Bettie and Sura, they were born with it. The most common symptom is regurgitation of water, mucous or food that is many times mistaken for vomiting. Some dogs with ME have difficulty swallowing try to swallow frequently. This is usually accompanied by hacking or attempts to clear their throat. An x-ray can in most cases confirm a dog's ME.

ME dogs need a diet with a milk shake-like consistency, but some dogs can eat kibble soaked in water, while others need meat ball shaped chunks; owners learn what is best through trial and error. Advice I was given early on has stuck with me: "What worked today, might not work tomorrow." So a sense of humor, paper towels and cleaning supplies are in the ME tool kit! The best position for eating is with the dog's body vertical and remaining that way for about 15 – 20 minutes afterward. Bettie and Sura both use the assistance of a chair to keep them upright. Most dogs with ME cannot tolerate water so they rely on water soaked food, gelatin or administration of fluids subcutaneously.

Some dogs need an inflatable collar or a pillow to prop up their heads and keep them elevated while they sleep. Bettie would most certainly shred a pillow so we just elevate the head end of her kennel with a block of wood for sleeping.

There are great resources available. If you know someone who is dealing with this disorder, please direct them to <http://www.caninemegaesophagus.org/>



Bettie (pictured above) and Sura (pictured below) prepare for dinner. Born with ME, they are thriving in Nebraska.





AMAL's Involvement at AMCA's 2014 National Specialty

AMAL plans to have our AMAL booth at the upcoming weeklong National Specialty, in San Diego. This annual event raises funds for malamute rescue needs and buyers are always generous. Sales from donations help fund our on-going efforts to assist malamutes with vet care, boarding, transportation, and non-standard re-homing assistance in support of our rescue affiliates. We have already received notice of donations of historic AMCA newsletters, catalogs, annuals, Pedigree reference journals, and Member Directories from the 80s and 90s. We'll also have classic malamute breed and mystery books. Custom malamute jewelry is in the works too! A limited number of Pedigree CDs will be also available for sale. (You can always go online to purchase a copy as well: <http://tinyurl.com/kmkzjw7>.)

- Volunteers to man the booth are always welcomed—please let us know if you want to help and consider what days and hours you might be available.
- AMAL NEEDS DONATIONS! We rely on donated items to be sold at the booth during the show and at the AMCA auction. Please send us your favorite new or slightly used clothing (t-shirts and malamute hats are typically good sellers), malamute gift items and stuffed malamute toys.

San Diego resident, elegant jewelry beader and longtime malamute supporter, Patty Hasegawa (email: pattyhasegawa@gmail.com), has kindly offered to accept advance deliveries for the AMAL Booth and Auction. Please hold your donations until October 1st. Please clearly mark on the mailing address:

AMAL, c/o Patty Hasegawa, 3606 Caminito Carmel Landing, San Diego CA 92130-2507



Another AMAL highlight will be the Rescue Showcase on the afternoon of Friday, November 7. Our full group showing features many dogs rescued from the 2011 Montana Seizure. This is AMAL's time to honor our adopters and their dogs. Attend the showcase and hear powerful stories of the dogs' beginnings, learn how the adopters have worked with them and see how the mals have progressed to be wonderful pack/family members and breed ambassadors as they round the show ring!

AMAL Booth Volunteer Contact and Rescue Showcase questions:

Sharon Nichols, 2014 Chairperson, snichols@nurdog.com



2014 AMCA

Alaskan Malamute National Specialty Show San Diego, CA—November 2-8, 2014

This year's AMCA National Specialty Show is in the Western Region, at the KONA KAI Hotel, on Shelter Island—off Mission Bay, in San Diego. The AMAL Rescue Showcase is scheduled for 4:00-5:15 PM Friday, November 7.

The Rescue Showcase provides AMAL regional affiliates the opportunity to showcase rescued dogs that reflect the breed's great characteristics and spotlight adopters who have provided loving homes and worked with these wonderful dogs...

AMAL Ref: <http://tinyurl.com/p2hg7la>

Schedule: <http://tinyurl.com/nkebgfv>

(Note: this schedule is tentative and subject to change)

Make your reservations as the rooms fill up quickly! AMAL is hoping for a great turnout – see you there!



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 your membership dues at work!

AMAL Membership Application/Renewal

July 2014 - June 2015

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. 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

Special Dedications

May 1, 2014 through July 31, 2014



For all the past Luv Sno dogs, by Ursula Joseph

For my favorite animal, the Alaskan Malamute... My late mal, Thunder, was very noble & loving, in a way that melted my heart forever – by Glenn D. Parker

In memory of "Stella" - Snobuc's *How Stella Got Her Groove*, companion to James & Cherie Urkelhoer, by Maria & Rolfe Dinwoodie

In memory of her brother, Donald J. Wingerter, by Carol Burbach

For POLARIS Rescue, in memory of Ingrid Simpson, by Paul Ganci & Sharon Nichols

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



Gardening with Malamutes

Sylvia Bailey

Owning a malamute or multiple snow dogs doesn't mean your landscape needs to look like the surface of the moon. Here are some tips from 30+ years of experience living with malamutes and flowers.

- Give up on the idea of a full, lush, beautiful green lawn. Once that is out of your head then things will be easier. Although there is supposedly a rare breed of non-digging, non-playing malamute out there, I have never owned one of those.
- Look up a bit higher than those pounding, thundering huge feet and you will see the uncharted yard space that can be a thing of beauty if it's planned properly.
- Find an assortment of large and medium sized pots. Heavy is good. Non-chewable is really good. Fill the bottom 1/3 of the pots with rocks to make them heavier and help with drainage. Garage sales are great places to find inexpensive planters. Cheap clay pots can be stained or painted to look like expensive works of art as well.
- Clustering your pots is the best way to keep flowers safe. Take a look at your malamutes' chase patterns and keep groupings just to the side of the raceway.



Sylvia's DeeJay Fuzzbutt MCGuillicutty showing Respect for a cluster of plants

- Use a combination of perennials and annuals to save money in the long run. Make sure to watch the labels for plants that will do well in the sun or shade depending on where the pots will be placed.
- Use good quality potting soil with moisture control and plant away. Don't be afraid to mix colors, textures and even a garden gnome or two into the pot.

Clustering plantings is important. Think of it as a pack thing. A lone pot is fair game, but if it's living in a pack, your malamutes should see them as a part of the obstacle course rather than something to move to the other side of the yard. Once your flowers start to take off, you will forget all about the fact you have no lawn.

Check the ASPCA web site (<http://tinyurl.com/oe9a7dt>) for plants poisonous to animals.



Texas Alaskan Malamute Rescue (TAMR) hosts weight pull events throughout the year with registration fees benefiting rescued malamutes. One of the major events that TAMR hosts is at the Houston World Series of Dogs Shows, one of the most prestigious, extensive dog shows in the country. The crowds enjoy watching the pull and it also gives the rescue considerable exposure. Both rescue and show malamutes come out to support the cause too! We have hosted weight pull events for six years and raise approximately \$200 for each event we host.



AMAL Membership Drive: Time to Send Annual Dues

AMAL is collecting membership donations for the 2014-2015 year! Please send in your new membership or renewal today. Be sure and indicate what type of membership you want:

- NEW or RENEWAL – for individual/family (\$25)
- NEW Benefactor Level – includes Pedigree CD (\$100)
- RENEWAL Benefactor Level – includes updated Pedigree CD (\$25)

Additional Donation – amount is up to you. All monies facilitate AMAL rescue efforts for this wonderful breed...

Note: For international orders for Pedigree CDs, please include an extra \$10 for shipping

See the form on page 6 for to mail membership dues, or go to this link for immediate online payment:

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

Thanks for your support!

Sharon Nichols

AMAL Treasurer

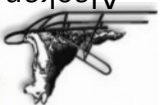
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Alaskan Malamute Assistance League

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