

# AMAL TALES

AUGUST 2015



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: BLIND LOVE

Two beautiful malamute pups. Brothers. Loving. Fun. Happy. Born in a puppy mill, but they're no good, they're both blind... they had to get rid of them... so they were dumped at the local shelter.

Lucky for these boys, someone saw that they have value. They're goofy friendly characters. They don't know, or care for that matter, that they are blind.

And so the call came in to us and without hesitation we took them in to rescue. Tough to find a foster home for a blind dog? Not a chance. Fosters were lining up three and four deep to take one of "the boys." I love our volunteers. LOVE them. CHERISH them!

Don't worry about or feel sorry for these malamutes! They can navigate stairs and play like any sighted dog, using their noses and ears to compensate.

And the boys? We named them Starsky and Hutch. Right? And when people ask if they are blind, I always say, "No, they just can't use their eyes. But they can see with their hearts just fine."



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Michael Roach  
President, AMAL



Alaskan Malamute Assistance League

..... We Pull For Them

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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](mailto:treasurer@malamuterescue.org)

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



## DURHAM, NC, MALAMUTE SEIZURE

On July 21, 2015, Animal Services of Durham, NC, received a complaint concerning two roaming dogs, and responded. While approaching the residence they suspected was the dogs' home, authorities noticed a strong smell of urine and feces. They also observed crated dogs inside the residence,

heard dogs barking, and obtained a search warrant. They confiscated 31 dogs and arrested the owner for multiple counts of animal cruelty.

Police surrendered 31 malamutes to the Durham County Animal Protection Society. One dog was euthanized immediately due to severe injury and two others have died.

The authorities originally classified these dogs as Siberian huskies at intake since they were small, underweight, and in poor health. The majority of them are heartworm positive and will require immediate treatment.

If you are able to help, to foster, or to provide donations towards their health care, please contact Sharon Huston at the local malamute rescue group, who is coordinating efforts.

**Alaskan Malamute Rescue of North Carolina, Inc.**  
[amrnc2015@gmail.com](mailto:amrnc2015@gmail.com)

Our national rescue group ([www.malamuterescue.org](http://www.malamuterescue.org)) is also monitoring and assisting. If you send donations, please note they are for the Durham seizure in the notes box.

Find current updates on Facebook, where a dedicated group has been created and is being maintained with updates and pictures:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/576306335843250/?pnref=story>





## **LAISSEZ LES BON TEMPS ROULEZ:**

### **BILINDA MARSHALL**

I met Bilinda, my friend of more than 20 years, through rescue. I had known her through various email lists and—on impulse—asked her to help with a young Malamute who was almost unresponsive to people. Bilinda agreed to take this special-needs boy, and when I brought him to her home, she already had a plan. An absolutely enormous crate sat in her living room close to the TV. She chose that space because he would be in the center of the household's life and as he adjusted, he would have more free space with her and her husband, Tom.

The adolescent pup was wary of the crate. Bilinda offered tempting treats and then took it a step further. She crawled into the crate and offered a handful of treats. He followed her in, and she just sat with him a while before exiting through a side door. That pup learned that humans were good and eventually found a forever home. And Bilinda was hooked on rescue.

Bilinda accepted the hard cases, like the mal who was hit by a car and released from the shelter with the pin that had been placed in his hip protruding through the skin. Of course this was on a weekend when vet services in rural Texas are scarce. But Bilinda had contacts and she advocated fiercely for dogs in her care. This dog, Lance Mackey, named after an Iditarod racer (another of Bilinda's passions), went through extensive rehab with Bilinda. He, too, found that perfect home.

Bilinda never said no to a dog in distress. When our rescue agreed to accept a dog, she went to fetch it at the shelter and came back with three. Why? Because when she indicated she was unable to accommodate them, the shelter said they would be put down. So we put up extra kenneling on her property, and her intervention led to new lives for these mals.

I don't want to present Bilinda as some kind of rescue saint. She was a complex human being and a fiery redhead. She was smart, endlessly curious, opinionated, and outspoken. Life in her orbit was always interesting. I guess that's a polite way of saying Bilinda could be "difficult." But Bilinda was direct and honest and kind and funny, and the dogs always came first.

When she lost her husband Tom and had the first in a series of heart attacks, her life became more difficult. True to form, Bilinda never complained. In fact when she moved her motor home to the Wong's property where she lived until her death, she celebrated life with this large loving extended family. She left this life surrounded by the family that loved her, Ashley Wong Miller who with her husband and 4 year old son provided home hospice care to Bilinda.

This is how she would want to be remembered: tough, smart, a celebrator of life.

The funny old ladies pictured above are in Louisiana celebrating Mardi Paws. The Mardi Gras sentiment sums up Bilinda's well-lived life.... Laissez les bons temps roulez!

Farewell my friend...for now.

Lynne Anderson



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# Special Donations

May 1, 2015, through July 31, 2015



Statue of Balto, Central Park, NYC

- In memory of our 13+ year-old brother and sister:
  - Snobuc's Sebastian – loved by Sheri Dermangion & family
  - Snobuc's Hug Ann Kissn Thing, Anni – loved by Maria & Rolfe Dinwoodie
- In honor of the Christenson Award – Dr. Norm Pomerance
- In memory of Kali, by Carolyn & Edward Dolezal
- In memory of Zeus, by Jeff Rauske

## 2015 AMCA National Specialty Show

### AMAL Booth & Rescue Showcase



Image credit: Tamara Burnett

The upcoming Alaskan Malamute Club of America (AMCA) National Specialty is scheduled to take place from Sunday, November 8, through Saturday, November 14, 2015, in Sturbridge, MA. This year's theme will be remembering and appreciating the breed's history. Ruth Levesque is the Show Chair and is planning a nice event! The location is Sturbridge Host Hotel & Conference Center. Special rates apply when reservations are placed through this direct contact number: (800) 582-3232. Details can be viewed at the AMCA site:

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

AMAL will participate with their traditional booth for sales in the foyer area, right outside the ballroom. We will also host a limited number of regional AMAL adopters at the Rescue Showcase, currently proposed for Friday, November 13 at 6 PM. (Note: scheduling times may be subject to change, so check the show schedule as the date becomes closer.) The annual AMCA Auction will be held after the Rescue Showcase, with the pre-AMCA Auction cocktail/social hour taking place as the showcase occurs. More details will follow.

AMAL could really use valuable auction and sales items. Think of what might fit well with this year's theme and/or unique malamute-related items. Ship sales item to:

**AMAL Donation**, for S. Nichols  
C/o Vicky McKinney  
501 Stony Fort Rd.  
Saunderstown, RI. 02874



Hope to see you there!  
Sharon Nichols  
2015 Showcase Chairperson



## AUGUST: HOT SPOTS

It's the dog days of summer. The bold "AUGUST" on our malamute-themed calendar is one hint, but the most salient indicator is that Charlotte and Leo both have hot spots, also called Summer Sores or moist eczema. These red, irritated lesions start surreptitiously. Within hours, the dogs' licking, chewing and scratching lead to a wet, icky mess. Untreated, hot spots spread to surrounding skin, causing it to deteriorate and creating a perfect environment for bacteria. Summer is prime time for hot spots, although they can occur at any time.

Almost anything can start a hot spot: allergic reactions; insect, mite, tick or flea bites; dirty or matted hair; skin trauma; underlying ear or skin infections; getting wet on humid days; or stress or boredom. Malamutes' thick coats and long hair also predispose them to hot spots. My dog's hot spots usually start well under their fur, and the hot spots are often well established and spreading before I see them.

Many people believe that maintaining healthy skin and coat are fundamental to preventing hot spots. My dogs eat better than I do, so I wonder if diet has all that much to do with it. Regardless, avoiding corn- or grain-based diets is smart, and supplementing with omega-3 fatty acids (especially in this breed that evolved on a fish-based diet) is, too. Testing for food allergies is prudent if your dog has recurrent or chronic hot spots. Flea control is critical, and exercise definitely helps distract the dog from the itch.

We've learned over time that when we see the first signs of a hot spot, it's time to act. What are the signs? Scratching, licking and the absolute death knell for canine skin, biting. The side bar describes the best interventions, although you will need a trial-and-error approach to see what works for your unique dog.

Once a hot spot is infected, your pup will need oral or topical antibiotics. In Virginia, our vet usually went directly to oral antibiotics for seven days. In Connecticut, vets seem to prefer gentamicin/betamethasone spray for ten days, which seems to work as well. A recent study using topical 10% tea tree oil cream—a substance that is naturally antimicrobial and also reduces itching—showed that 82% of 53 dogs who had skin problems improved. I'm going to try it.

Last summer Leo developed a hot spot after an altercation with a rooster (which the rooster won); the place where said rooster pecked Leo's butt turned into a \$250 hot spot project that took weeks to heal. And that's what you need to keep in mind about hot spots: They become a project. Addressing them early can shorten the project's duration.

-Jeannette Wick  
jywickrph@aol.com

### TREATING HOT SPOTS

- Try to determine the cause. If it's flea allergy, an anal gland infection, or stress, you may be able to eliminate the cause
- Shave the hair surrounding the lesion to let air and medication reach the wound; hot spots may take a week to dry
- Clean the area with a non-irritating solution (i.e. hydrogen peroxide or a scent-free oatmeal shampoo) frequently at first, then once a day
- Use an E-collar or other means to prevent self-trauma and leave it on until the area is dry
- See the veterinarian for antibiotics, corticosteroids, or antihistamines and painkillers
- Monitor for several weeks until the fur returns



### E-CONE ALTERNATIVE

Charlotte (pictured above) never likes to wear an e-cone. What mal does? She can destroy a room with a hard plastic cone, ending with a ragged circle of broken plastic around her neck and her teeth in her flesh. We use an old ProCone Soft collar most of the time, but it's dark and heavy. After a few days, it needs to be washed. During this recent episode of hot spots, we made a new cone using stiff interfacing and a satin lining. It's lighter (and prettier) than the ProCone and machine washable. It wouldn't have worked early in the process when her hot spots were the itchiest, but toward the end of the healing process, it worked beautifully.

## GRAIN-FREE AND EGG-FREE COCONUT AND PEAR DOG COOKIES

### INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 cup of coconut flour
- 1/2 cup of pear puree or pear baby food
- 1 tablespoon of raw, local honey
- 2 tablespoons of coconut oil
- 3 tablespoons of water

### DIRECTIONS

- Preheat oven to 350° Fahrenheit
- Combine ingredients, mix thoroughly
- Line a cookie sheet with parchment paper
- Roll dough into small balls, place on parchment paper
- Bake for 10 minutes.



From K9instinct.com

### AMAL Membership Application/Renewal

July 2015 - June 2016

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](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!).

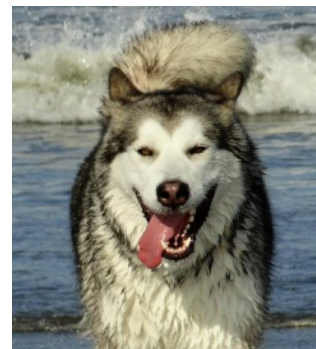
Mail to:

AMAL Membership  
c/o Treasurer  
P.O. Box 7161  
Golden, CO 80403



### MALAMUTE SUMMER

We've come to count on Sylvia Bailey for pictures and anecdotes to fill the AMAL Tales's rare empty space. Here, she provides a look at what summer looks like at her house.



To the left, that's Billie leaving the ocean after a cool dip.

Above, that's Washington Alaskan Malamute Adoption League's current Facebook star, Cooper. Cooper was adopted through WAMAL, apparently to very permissive adopters in Kirkland, WA, who may be spoiling him!

Below is DeeJay's expression of remorse after murdering several plants.







**WOLFIE AND NALA**

## **WOLFIE'S 1,191 NIGHTS: A KENNEL IS NOT A HOME**

Wolfie, a loving and apparently well-loved malamute, landed in a kill shelter in June 2010 when an untreated eye infection impaired his sight. His owner brought him to the shelter for reasons unknown. Maybe Wolfie's vet bills were insurmountable, or perhaps his limited vision was too much for the owner to handle. Regardless, Chesapeake Area Alaskan Malamute Protection (CHAAMP) pulled him and introduced him to the kennel. And that's where Wolfie stayed for 1,191 nights, mainly because few adopters are willing to take a blind dog.

As the days passed, it sometimes felt as if no one would ever want Wolfie. The kennel staff loved Wolfie and treated him well, but a kennel is not a home. Then, in September 2013, Chipp Reid called and asked if he could foster a malamute. Chipp had been in touch with CHAAMP several years earlier, but the darned husky rescue people had asked him to transport a female husky—Nala—and he had fallen in love with her and adopted her. With no room for two dogs, his contact with CHAAMP had stopped.

Chipp is an easy-going, loquacious guy who had a malamute years ago, but had transferred his loyalties to huskies. In 2013, relocated to a larger property with Nala, Chipp was willing to foster Wolfie and "home-school" him so that Wolfie might be more attractive to adopters. As Wolfie hopped into the car for the five-hour drive home, there were no dry eyes among the CHAAMP staff.

Chipp's only minor concern was that Wolfie may have trouble with the furniture. Wolfie put that concern to rest quickly, using his shoulder to feel along the walls and furniture, and developing an "I need to go out" ritual with the urgency of his need proportional to the velocity of his laps around the couch.

Often, disabled dogs—like disabled people—will tell you what they need if you ask and listen. Chipp's careful monitoring showed him that Wolfie needs emotional support when new noises are introduced to the environment. Wolfie hates vacuums and lawnmowers (but loves the air conditioning vent on a hot day). Although he knows every inch of the yard, he is challenging to walk because he becomes agitated if he misses his footing.

Today, Nala and Wolfie are pals. Nala knows Wolfie is blind, and teases him by moving his favorite toy around. They play in the yard, and Wolfie has a couple of favorite digging spots. Wolfie senses Nala is half his size, and wrestles gently with her, never using his 90 pound weight as leverage to "win."

Chipp sends two messages. First, he'd like to meet every person who ever passed up life with Wolfie so he could say, "At the end of the day, a dog is a dog." Second, he thanks CHAAMP for letting him foster and eventually adopt Wolfie. How else would he have known about Wolfie's unique way of showing love—putting his head under Chipp's chin while leaning into Chipp's chest.



**WOLFIE AND NALA**



**WOLFIE FINDS THE COUCH**



**IS THAT RAIN I HEAR?  
I'LL GO LATER!**

## FROM THE PORTLAND STREETS TO THE WASHINGTON BEACHES

In April and May of 2014, Multnomah County Animal Services (MCAS) in Oregon attempted to determine the origins of at least eight "malamute-type" dogs found near the southern end of Portland's Forest Park. Two were shot after killing a pet goat, and four were eventually captured and made their way to MCAS (see a two-minute video about the dogs here: <http://tinyurl.com/nlgshjl>). This caper, dubbed the Malamute Mystery, was never solved, but it appears that they were dumped together.

Washington Alaskan Malamute Adoption League (WAMAL) ended up with four emaciated malamutes. Two were extremely shy and needed rehabilitation time with patient, experienced foster homes. All four now lead happy and healthy lives in Washington State with new families.

Neal Nosek wanted to adopt 8-year-old male Casanova (Casey). Neal lives in Pacific Beach, WA. After a great home visit report, I called Neal to get a better idea of what he was hoping for in a malamute. Right away I knew Neal was offering a great home. He had the right attitude and sense of humor for a first time mal owner.

Here's a follow-up note from Neal. The photo he sent pretty much sums it up.

"We are both doing real swell. He has been a wonderful dog. We are both happy campers. I can tell Casey has really gotten attached to me. Like most mals, he really loves to go on his walks. We keep to three miles or so, walk down though Pacific Beach town, then back up the beach to my house. We do that every other day. Otherwise I walk him around my yard a lot. I do have a few stories already. He sure is like a little kid I enjoy so much. :)"



—Sylvia Bailey

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