

# AMAL TALES

AUGUST 2016

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

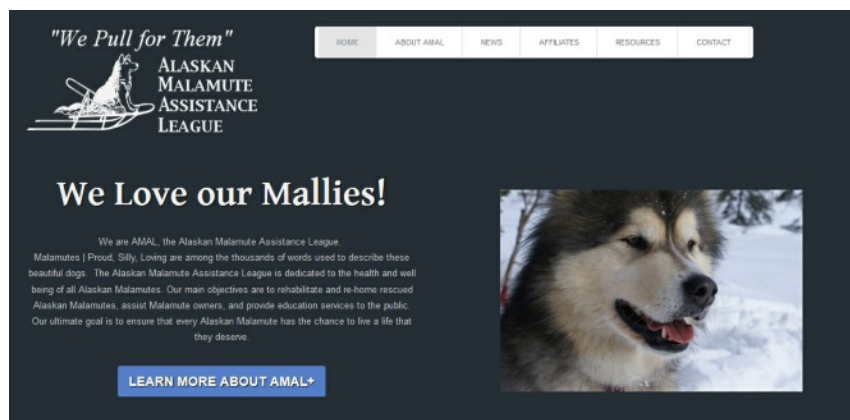
### AMAL'S NEW WEB SITE LAUNCHES

Many of you have certainly noticed that AMAL has a new web site! The old web site served us well from many years, but today's world is dominated by mobile devices, which account for the majority of today's Internet traffic. Google actually down-scores your search for a web site if that web site is not mobile-friendly. The new AMAL web site is not just mobile friendly, it is designed around viewing on faster more agile mobile devices.

The new format makes making changes and adding new content lightning fast. Over the years the web site has grown in size and complexity, and it was my goal to give you a site that is rich with content, easy to navigate, and even easier to find.

Change is essential for growth and development as an organization. As the old Texas adage goes, "If all you ever do is all you've ever done, then all you'll ever get is all you ever got." Dynamic and flexible, the new AMAL web site can grow and flow with the organization for many years to come. Our ability to maximize our reach in the rescue community over time depends on our abilities to change continuously in positive ways.

*-Michael Roach*



*Editor's Note: Lucky AMAL! Our president Mike Roach has designed web sites and marketing solutions for more than 22 years. He founded his Web Boy Design, Inc, 15 years ago. It provides comprehensive web solutions and Internet marketing strategies. He donated his skills and abilities to redesign AMAL's web site. Thank you, Mike!*



**Alaskan Malamute Assistance League**

*We Pull For Them*



*AMAL member navigates new web site!*

## INSIDE

- Chalazions, page 3
- Therapy dogs, featuring Rocky, pages 4 and 5
- **PLEASE PAY YOUR ANNUAL DUES!**  
Form, page 6.
- National Specialty Show, page 7
- Thank You Donors, page 8

## AMAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### President

Michael Roach

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### Vice President

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### Treasurer

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[treasurer@malamuterescue.org](mailto:treasurer@malamuterescue.org)

### Member at Large

Vicky Meluso

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### Membership

Shel Simpson

[membership@malamuterescue.org](mailto:membership@malamuterescue.org)

## GENERAL INFO

[contact@malamuterescue.org](mailto:contact@malamuterescue.org)

P.O. Box 7161

Golden, CO 80403

Visit AMAL on the Internet at  
[www.malamuterescue.org](http://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](mailto:treasurer@malamuterescue.org)

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

and use PayPal.



## DOUBLE YOUR DONATION!

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. They 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. Questions? Please feel free to direct them to: [treasurer@malamuterescue.org](mailto:treasurer@malamuterescue.org).



*WAMAL recently spent the weekend promoting Malamute rescue and recruiting volunteers at the Kirkland Uncorked festival in Kirkland, WA. They raised just over \$1000 for the rescue dogs.*





# EYELID TUMORS: LARGELY COSMETIC

Christine Kubus

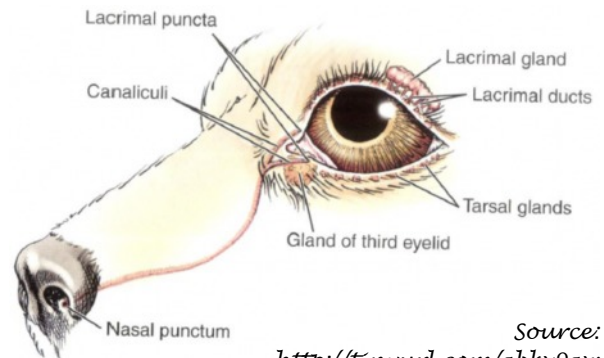
Don't panic! Eyelid tumors are not uncommon, especially in Alaskan malamutes. Malamutes, much like Huskies, Samoyeds and a handful of other breeds, are genetically predisposed to what are known as Meibomian Cysts or "chalazions."

The Meibomian glands (also called "tarsal glands") are small sebaceous glands that line the upper and lower eye lids. These glands produce an oily substance which helps to keep the eye lubricated and ultimately protects the cornea.

Occasionally, the cells within these glands can over grow and a tumor or cyst can appear. Most often, these tumors are benign and don't hurt your malamute. It is possible, however, that the tumors can be a form of cancer. This is more likely in older dogs and should be evaluated by your vet. Don't delay scheduling a consultation, in the event that it is cancer.

You and your vet should make all decisions regarding the care of your malamute jointly. Your vet may recommend surgical removal of the tumor for several reasons:

- If a sample of the cyst is found to be cancerous
- If the growth is in the eyelid or is otherwise damaging your dog's cornea and vision.
- If the cyst seems bothersome to your mal, often noted as itching and potential cyst rupture



Source:

<http://tinyurl.com/zbkv9zw>



If you decide to remove the growth, you'll need to consider a few things. This procedure requires general anesthesia (unless small enough to be removed with sedation and numbing agents). It is important to consider risks and benefits especially in geriatric malamutes.

One source states that the average rate of anesthesia-related deaths among dogs is 1 in 1000. Canines are at a greater risk for anesthesia complications if they have pre-existing heart problems, medical conditions, or are considered "geriatric." A well customized and individualized anesthesia plan, including monitoring and blood work, results in better outcomes than the statistic outlined above.

The bottom line is older, sicker dogs are at a higher risk for anesthesia complications. If the surgery is not recommended by your vet for the comfort or safety of your malamute, save yourself the approximately \$700, hassle, and potential risks associated with removing eye cysts.

If surgery is required, your mal may experience bloody tears and swelling, which can last about a week. An Elizabethan collar may also be needed to assist in the healing process. In the weeks to follow, you may notice new tissue development and regrowth of the fur around the surgical site. The good news is, in most cases, the lids return to normal within a few months.

*Fun Fact: Most dogs have a total visual field of 250 degrees.*

*Human's total visual field is only 190 degrees.*

*That gives dogs a 60 degree advantage, and explains why they see everything!*

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# PAWS FOR A CAUSE: YOUR 411 ON THERAPY DOGS

*Melissa Laracy*



It's May—two exams down, two more to go. I'm losing steam and need a break. The University of Connecticut's (UConn; Go Huskies!) volunteer pet therapy program comes in handy yet again. With a stop at the library, I'm surrounded by loving dogs who exude happiness and positive energy. Immediately, I feel more relaxed and ready to tackle the next task.

UConn, one of many colleges across the country that hosts therapy dogs, proudly promotes Paws to Relax, where registered therapy dogs visit stressed students at the library during finals week. First implemented in 2010 and hugely successful, it has remained a vital part of finals week. Anxious, overwhelmed students can also attend pet therapy at the Health Education office every other week.

Therapy dogs provide comfort, relief, and joy to humans in a variety of settings. In addition to universities, dogs visit hospitals, nursing homes, hospices, physical therapy clinics, and schools or libraries. In hospitals, dogs distract sick patients from pain and boredom. They can also uplift waiting—and worried—friends' and relatives' spirits. Nursing home and hospice residents are also grateful for therapy dogs' repeated visits. Just a few minutes with a therapy dog makes their day if they don't have any other visitors.

Less commonly known uses for therapy dogs are animal-assisted therapy and read-to-dog programs. With the help of healthcare professionals, therapy dogs help patients undergoing physical therapy by encouraging them to improve motor skills, balance, and ambulation. Read-to-dog programs are beneficial for young children with poor reading skills. Often self-conscious and hesitant to read in front of their peers or teachers, poor readers are less anxious about making mistakes and being judged when reading to a dog. Reading becomes more fun and less stressful, providing more opportunities to practice and improve skills. Handlers are present to help children with reading, if needed.

Therapy dogs don't just affect humans' emotional and mental states. Multiple studies have also elicited a correlation between dog petting and health improvements, such as increased immune function and reduced blood pressure. These effects are likely due to stress relief.

Therapy dogs, service dogs, and emotional support dogs (ESD) are distinct. Service dogs are trained to assist disabled individuals with certain tasks and can generally accompany their humans anywhere. The distinction between ESD and therapy dogs is that ESD support their handlers, while therapy dogs support others. Mental health professionals recommend ESD for their patients.

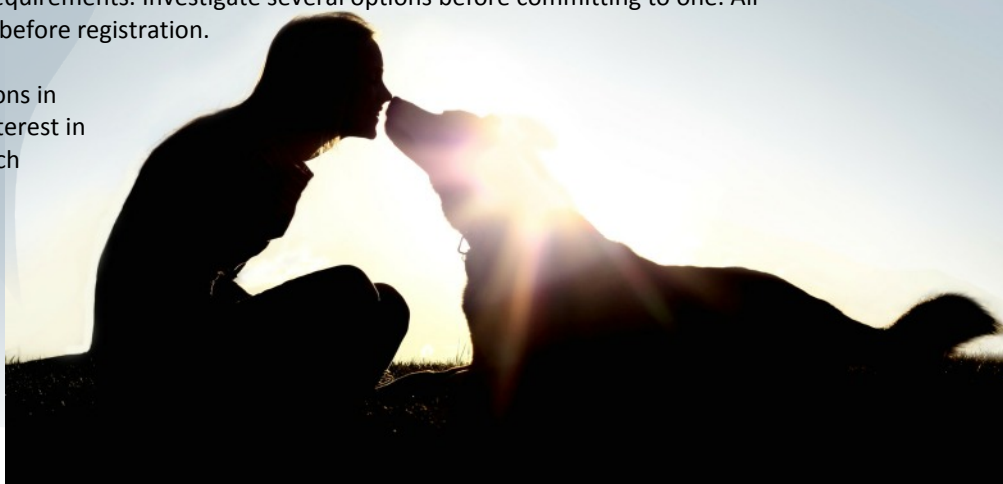
Are you interested in registering your malamute as a therapy dog? Numerous national and local organizations register dogs. Some national registration/certification organizations include Alliance of Therapy Dogs, Pet Partners, and Therapy Dogs International. While registration is not always needed, some facilities require registration before allowing therapy dogs to visit. First, here's a simple checklist to determine eligibility:

- The dog must enjoy being around humans (especially strangers) and being handled
- The human must be willing to volunteer with no financial compensation
- The dog must be well trained, predictable, friendly, and calm
- The human must provide a vaccination record and health evaluation for the dog from his/her veterinarian

Different organizations have more or less strict requirements. Investigate several options before committing to one. All organizations evaluate prospective therapy dogs before registration.

A simple web search can identify local organizations in your area. Contact them directly to express an interest in participating. You may also visit this page to search Pet Partners' directory:

<https://petpartners.org/volunteer/community-partners/community-partners-directory/>.







*Jeannette Wick*



## **ROCKY: FROM RESCUE TO REMEDY**

The year 2012 was Rocky's worst year. The next was his luckiest.

Pittsburgh's Humane Society picked up Rocky in the autumn of 2012. Unrecognizable as a malamute, Rocky weighed 86 pounds and had suffered horrific abuse. He had an embedded collar and mange. After a brief medical hold, he landed at Alaskan Malamute Rescue of Delaware (AMROD), where he received treatment through the New Year. AMROD's pictures (right) underscore his great need. Even after weeks of treatment, Rocky's Christmas picture lacked holiday cheer.

Alexandra Kunkel and Jonas MacDonald followed Rocky's story after meeting him in Pittsburgh. Jonas had walked Rocky while he was on medical hold, and fell in love with him. In January, 2013, Rocky's luck changed. Jonas and Alex brought him home.

Now a 130 pound piece of eye candy, this crowd-pleasing boy is a registered Therapy Dogs International ambassador, trained by Misty Pines in Cranberry, PA. He and Alex attended a handful of classes, and then he took the test. A handler checked his obedience, exposed him to loud noises, and presented him with unfamiliar situations and equipment. He graduated on his first try.

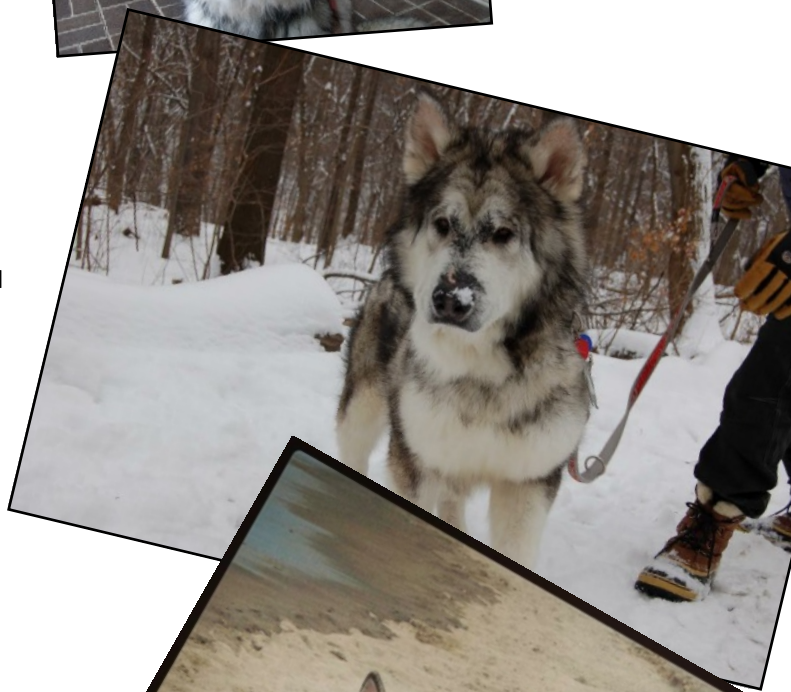
When asked how having a malamute as a therapy dog differs from the typical smaller dog, Alex says, "In the hospital, smaller dogs can get on the bed with patients. Rocky can't."

One of Rocky's first gigs was at a nursing home. Alex says she wasn't prepared for the reception. Many of the residents were Holocaust survivors, and after exposure to German Shepherd guard dogs in the 1940s, dog-averse. Yet a small group of residents loved this gentle giant and would wait each Saturday, treats in hand. Rocky visited every Saturday for a year.

School visits also bring surprises. Many kids are taken aback and ask lots of questions. Tucked in with all the standard questions—How much does he weigh? Is he a wolf? What does he eat?—there's always one startler, like "Do dogs get boogers?" (Really, how would you answer that one?)

Clearly, having a therapy dog presents the owner with thought-provoking experiences. It also gives the dog a job, and more than a little attention. What malamute wouldn't love that?

*Rocky has his own Instagram page. Find him at  
<https://www.instagram.com/rockyofthetundra/>*





## TAIL-WAGGING TURKEY PIZZA

### INGREDIENTS

- ¼ cup turkey broth
- 1 premade pizza dough
- 1 cup cooked turkey
- ½ cup chopped spinach
- ½ teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 cup grated mozzarella
- ¼ cup sesame seeds

### DIRECTIONS

- Preheat oven to 375° Fahrenheit
- Stretch the pizza dough on a greased pizza pan, and pour the turkey broth on top.
- Sprinkle the remaining ingredients on top.
- Bake for 12 to 15 minutes.

Share this tasty pizza with your pup!

You can add other ingredients, but never add onion or high-salt items.

### 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: \_\_\_\_\_

#### 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



*Sequoia, a recently adopted very senior Malamute mix, was a big hit at the annual WAMAL west side yard sale this year. Not only did she promote rescue, she modeled a few of the items for sale.*

*What, out of dog food?*



## AMAL AT AMCA NATIONAL SPECIALTY SHOW

This year's Regional & National Specialty Shows are scheduled to be held October 23-25 (Regional) and October 26-29 (National), at Hotel Elegante, in beautiful Colorado Springs, CO. Keep the dates open! This year's theme is "Let it Snow..." For additional information check the web site: <http://www.alaskanmalamutenationals.com/>. Hotel reservations are first come, first serve so be sure to make your plans early!

AMAL looks forward to hosting the Regional Rescue Showcase and having a fundraising booth. AMAL needs interesting or valuable auction and sales items. Be thinking of those unique Alaskan and malamute-related items that will sell well. Other years' top selling items have been long- and short-sleeved T-shirts, sweatshirts, historical breed activity and event photos on gift items, and stuffed animals, to name a few.

Please ship donations **by October 20, 2016** to:

**AMAL Booth – 2016**

c/o Valhalla Alaskan Malamutes  
15355 Buckland Ct.  
Elbert, CO 80106

This year's show will feature advance sales of wine made by Denver's own Bonacquisti Wine Company, with a portion of sales to benefit AMAL! This Colorado winery develops their wines similar to an Italian style. We limited the wines to a red and a white offering in a 2 bottle box or a case, and the wines are made and bottled! A big thank you to Michael Roach for designing the labels!

Purchases may be made through Bonacquisti Wine Company's web site: <http://tinyurl.com/zyypfxo>.

Please order **by September 30** for pickup at the Hospitality Suite at Nationals. (*Pickup details to follow on this web site link a week in advance of the Show*).

- **SLED DOG RED:** A mellow blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot & Cabernet Franc grapes. This wine is delicious alone or wonderful with cheese. Its medium body allows it to go well with most meats and spicy foods.
- **WOO WOO WHITE:** This Italian style white contains Cortese grapes. Fresh and floral with citrus fruit—perfect for sipping and with seafood, chicken and light appetizers.

These wines are great for celebrating at Nationals and don't forget that the holidays soon after the Show—wines make great gifts. Thanks in advance for your continued support of rescue.

Hope to see you at Nationals!

Sharon Nichols, 2016 Chairperson Rescue Showcase







## *Special Donations*

*May 1, 2016 through July 31, 2016*

In Memory of Sundance – Thunder King's Hurricane,  
by Bill & Sandy Dennis

In Honor of Summit Malamonster, by Michael Paul

In Honor of Zeus, by Jeff Rauske

In Memory of a great dog and our first homebred  
Champion – "Howler" – CH Winterstarz Sun of  
Istari, AOM RN, WTD, WPD, WWPD, AAAM, by Dr.  
Katherine D. Burger & Dr. Timothy O'Brien

In Memory of Denali & Vinny, by Debora Castro