

AMAL TALES

FEBRUARY 2017

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Knowing Your Limits

As I write this message, I am seriously considering putting life jackets on my dogs. As you may have heard, California's drought is over! Normally we only have 4 to 5 inches of rain per season. We had upwards of 16 inches of rain with the rainy season not yet over.

Different regions have different problems and conditions. We've all noticed that our weather has been erratic at best. This can create problems caring for our own dogs and especially rescue dogs. Fortunately, malamutes tolerate cold temperatures and harsh weather easier than most breeds, but caretakers must shield them from harsh situations. Crate training is always helpful, especially if you have several dogs in addition to rescued dogs.

A neighbor of mine runs an all-breed rescue. The local Animal Regulation Department visited her recently. They confiscated the majority of her dogs. She was licensed for 25 dogs but they found well over 125. Her belief was that she was saving them. I'm not quite sure the dogs felt saved as the officers were taking them off to the shelter.

I know we all treasure every Alaskan Malamute's life, but we must never let that love overshadow our responsibility to them. We must provide the best possible physical and emotional environment for every rescued dog. To lose sight of that vision is to compromise every rescuer's reputation. We should all know how many dogs we can personally handle and never exceed that number. That ensure each dog is cared for properly.

The reality is that we really can't save them all. That shouldn't stop us from trying to do the very best that we can!

Tina Dunn
AMAL President



Alaskan Malamute Assistance League

..... *We Pull For Them*



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AMAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Tina Dunn

president@malamuterescue.org

Vice President

Angela Brown

vicepresident@malamuterescue.org

Secretary

Mike Ulman

secretary@malamuterescue.org

Treasurer

Sharon Nichols

treasurer@malamuterescue.org

Member at Large

Vicky Meluso

director@malamuterescue.org

Membership

Shel Simpson

membership@malamuterescue.org

GENERAL INFO

contact@malamuterescue.org

P.O. Box 7161

Golden, CO 80403

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>



Tundra (center) is flanked by Taylor on the left and Franki on the right.

IAMRA Celebrates Placement #850

We are thrilled to share the news that during 2016 Illinois Alaskan Malamute Rescue Association (IAMRA) placed its 850th rescue in a wonderful forever home! Lucky Number 850 is a sweet young girl who came to IAMRA after being found as an unclaimed stray. Please meet Tundra, in the words of her Mom and Dad:

Within a minute of meeting Tundra, we knew Tundra was a lover. She rolled onto her back for a belly rub. (By comparison, when we met Franki, we sat near her on the floor for an hour before she would let us touch her.)

When we brought Tundra home, we let her sniff Franki and Taylor through the fence, before introducing her to her new backyard. A few low rumbles from the old dogs said, "You think you're gonna come into this yard?!"

"You talkin' to me?!" replied Tundra.

We introduced Tundra on a leash. Franki and Taylor were also leashed. After formal introductions and a little more trash talk, tails started going. Living on the edge, we let the three of them loose together knowing full well dog fights could ensue. But we got lucky, they started playing and it really hasn't stopped! Tundra and Taylor go at it "tooth and nail" and Franki, the Drill Sergeant, lets them know when they're getting out of hand.

Other than squirrels and rabbits, Tundra hasn't met anyone she doesn't love. Of course she loves the squirrels and rabbits too, just in a different way! She is the friendliest, most easy going, outgoing mal we've ever had. She is a wonderful addition to our pack!

Vicky Meluso, IAMRA's director, sends a great big tail wag to the volunteers and supporters who make the rescue success stories possible!



AMAL Tales has Two Cover Girls This Month!

Our February 2017 cover girl is Shasta, and she's a looker with those spectacles. That photo introduces you to our second cover girl, the woman behind the lens and Shasta's owner, Natalie Kolosok. Her story appears on pages 4 and 5. Natalie reports that some people think that Shasta is cold because of her fierce independence, but Natalie and her husband Dmitry love Shasta's inquisitive nature and relish the small signs of affection she gives them.



Special Donations

November 1, 2016 through January 31, 2017

In Memory of my favorite Mal named Bear,
by Christina Costello

In Memory of "Catherine's Koda," by Cathie Reinhard
In Honor of Rosebud Baldrige, by Carol McKinney

DOUBLE YOUR DONATION!

Most Employee Donation Matching programs will match your donation to AMAL! Ask your Human Resources Department about your company's procedure. Questions? Please feel free to direct them to: treasurer@malamuterescue.org.



Sequoia: We Should All Be So Lucky (and Beautiful)

This photo is Agouti Malamute Sequoia who just had an "2nd Extra Christmas" as Washington Alaskan Malamute Adoption League (WAMAL) volunteers like to say. Sequoia's previous owners dropped her at the shelter in October, 2015 to be euthanized. Sequoia was 14 years old. Her paperwork says she was immobile, her body was covered in bleeding hot spots, she was thin, and she had arthritis.

WAMAL took Sequoia from the shelter directly to a veterinarian where she was put on antibiotics and had a medicated bath. From there she went to one of our best senior foster homes and started a program of daily walking.

Within weeks her skin had cleared, her arthritis was much better, and she was the talk of the neighborhood with her personality. Sequoia lives with her new human dad Prateek, and until she recently retired, she worked alongside him at Amazon in Seattle.

And if you're wondering, "What is an Agouti Malamute?" we can answer that! It's a coat color! Agoutis are born with a sooty or "dirty" looking face, and have a banded coat with dark bands of black, and light bands of beige, cream, tan, peach, or red. Beautiful, yes?



AMAL Tales is The Alaskan Malamute Assistance League's Newsletter, published quarterly in the spring, summer, fall and winter. All rights reserved. Copyright 2017.

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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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Photo: Ksenia Vasenev

Have you noticed that the photographs on animal rescue web sites—often a potential adopter’s first impression—can be lack-luster? Luckily, Washington Alaskan Malamute Adoption League's (WAMAL) malamutes have help making a good impression.

When Natalka (Natalie) Kolosok emigrated from Ukraine five years ago, she knew that continuing her public relations career would be difficult. Natalie wanted a creative career, and experimented with art and blogging while living in Sunnyvale, CA. Then, she and her husband Dmitry Guyvoronsky moved to Seattle.

A newcomer again, Natalie looked for a group whose meaningful work would help her make connections. She dreamed of having a dog as a child, but never had the chance. Interested in big breeds, she stumbled across WAMAL’s web site and fell in love with Alaskan Malamutes. Unsure how to make first contact, she wrote a letter, and sent it nervously.

WAMAL’s quick, enthusiastic response provided information on volunteering, fostering, and adopting. Small in stature and a dog novice, Natalie knew that she needed some dog skills before taking a malamute home. The WAMAL team mentored Natalie during five walking sessions with a mal named Juno, focusing on handling and training. Soon Natalie was walking dogs regularly, but she wanted to do more.

Turning to WAMAL’s web site for inspiration, she noticed low quality photos that failed to capture character. In Ukraine, Natalie had worked closely with professional photographers to create media for newspaper, magazines, and online materials. She understood how to work with subjects, settings, and lighting. Working on a fashion blog in Seattle, she sharpened her skills. Her friends and family in the photography industry supported her at every step. She learned via photography blogs, YouTube, and experimentation. Once she turned her camera towards the dogs at WAMAL, she found her muse.

She finds working with dogs is completely different than working with people. “They don’t need anything from you, they don’t need the photos. They just need a connection with you.” Since dogs don’t take well to direction, she simply helps them relax and act naturally. By focusing on the connection with an animal, she opens lines of communication.





Dylan Girardi



Mal Pal Spotlight: Natalka Kolosok

All photos, Natalka Kolosok unless otherwise noted

Natalie sees dog adoption from both sides. She meets families who are trying to re-home their dogs after realizing malamutes require much work, usually due to inadequate preparation. Malamutes that lack strong leadership, consistent training, and ample exercise can become nightmares for families, and they never see this special breed's charm.

Next, as a foster mom, Natalie tried to remain emotionally detached from her ward. She anticipated feeling good passing fosters to permanent homes so that she could help other dogs—but she and her husband met her first (and last) foster, Shasta. WAMAL warned her that Shasta was dog-reactive and fight-prone: not ideal for living in a neighborhood full of dogs. But when they took her home, Shasta was extremely calm. Natalie thinks Shasta was on her best behavior to make a good impression. Faced with relinquishing Shasta to a forever home, Dmitry, who had concerns about adopting a large dog, decided Shasta had to stay. No more fosters. :)

Last summer, Natalie started Ears and Noses Photography, which helps owners capture special moments with their animals. But WAMAL's dogs didn't prepare her for one thing: dealing with owners. Owners often divert their pets' attention, or showcase their dogs' tricks. It's fun, but circumvents her goal. Her opinion: meaningful photos happen when you are patient and observe uninterrupted animals.

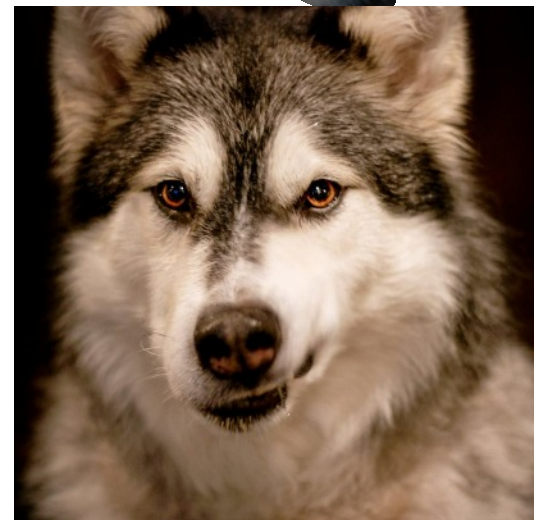
Natalie attends various WAMAL events—as the semi-official photo journalist—and has had some surprises. During a multi-rescue event, she wanted a portrait of a terrier. As she positioned the view finder, he barked right into her lens! She actually jumped. It was the first time a dog barked at her camera, but not the last. And when working with a mother-daughter pair at WAMAL, the daughter (playfully) approached from behind and pushed her over while she was taking mom's photo. Now Natalie prepares for all possibilities, and isn't afraid to get down in the grass and mud to get her shots.

Her volunteer work helped identify her passion, and the community pushed her to pursue it. Her commercial project focuses her energy and develops her skills for the ultimate goal—working with dog and wildlife non-profits on larger projects. Until then she continues to learn every day from those around her, humans and non-humans alike.

Check out Natalie's website at: <http://www.earsandnoses.com/>
Also on Facebook and Instagram @ Earsandnoses



Photo: Ksenia Vaseney



NO-BAKE MAL-ARONI AND CHEESE

INGREDIENTS

- 12 ounces paw-shaped pasta or elbow macaroni
- 2 tablespoons margarine or butter
- 2 T flour (whole wheat if possible)
- 1 cup milk
- 8 ounces grated cheddar

DIRECTIONS

- Cook and drain the pasta
- Melt the butter, whisk in the flour, and gradually add the milk, stirring until it thickens. Add the cheese, stirring until it melts.
- Pour the sauce over the hot pasta.
- Cool before serving.

Add a frozen chicken drumstick or a burger, and you will see a big malamute smile!

Our field testers also like sauteed portobello mushrooms on top.

AMAL Membership Application/Renewal

July 2016 - June 2017

Go to <http://tinyurl.com/hmi3tef> 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
P.O. Box 7161
Golden, CO 80403

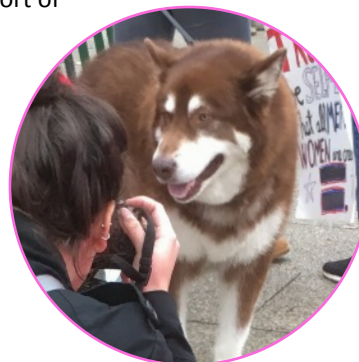


One-Half Million Women and (at least) One Malamute March on D.C.

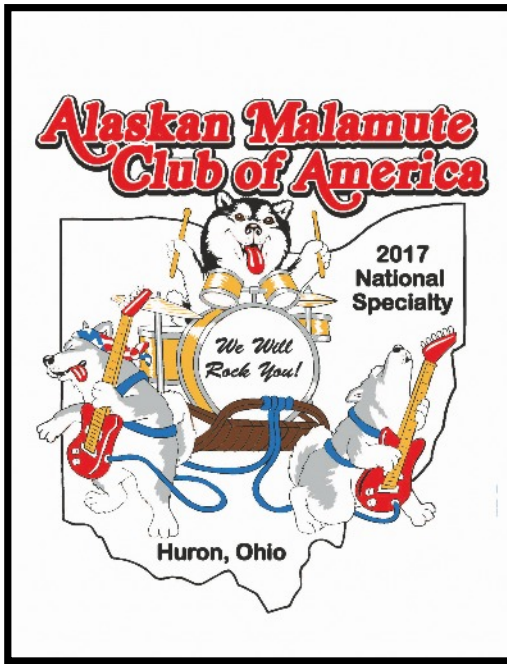
Women from around the country—and around the world—flocked to Washington, D.C. on January 21, 2017 to march in protest. Let's not do the politics here. We'll just report that roving reporters Ian Rowe and Caroline Wick were there and spotted this lovely malamute joining the crowd. Caroline snapped the picture.

They report that they see this pup around town at events from time to time, but don't know the dog's name or story. We can assume that she's a girl—she was at the Woman's March, after all—but a number of men marched in support of their loved ones. You can see several men behind the dog, and of course, Ian has a Y chromosome, too.

Malamute lovers should rest assured this is not fake news.



AMCA's 2017 Alaskan Malamute National Specialty



The 2017 Alaskan Malamute National Specialty Show, scheduled for October 22 –28, is hosted by the Great Lakes Region and will be held at Sawmill Creek Resort, in Huron, Ohio. The Show Chair is Cindy Benson and Patty Ann Peel is the Assistant Chair. Hotel reservations are first come; first serve so be sure to make your plans early!

AMAL will host the Rescue Showcase of representative regional adopters who work so hard to provide these dogs loving homes and families, help them gain confidence and security, and provide them with regular exercise. They have given the dogs “forever homes!”

Please begin thinking of those unique Alaskan and malamute-related items that will sell well at the AMAL Booth and at the AMCA Auction. Past years’ top selling items have been long sleeved T-shirts, sweatshirts, sledding or weight pull equipment, historical breed activity and event memorabilia, mal images on gift items, unique functional items with malamute decoration, and stuffed animals (dark eyes preferred!). Shipping instructions will be provided in our next newsletter.

Find more information at <http://www.alaskanmalamutenationals.com/>.

Hope to see you in Huron!
Sharon Nichols, for AMAL

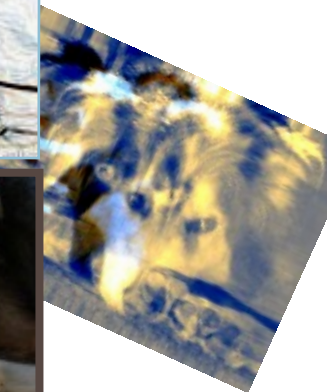
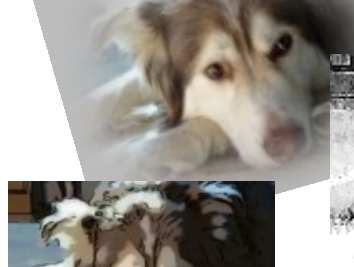
Got Pictures? Of Course You Do!

If you have an Alaskan Malamute—the most beautiful and photogenic of canine breeds—you have photographs. If you've had more than one malamute, you may have more pictures than you care to admit. Digital photography is easy to store, but confining pictures to a phone or computer file is no fun.

Many people frame pictures and scatter them around the house. Eh, that's good, but other approaches elevate your snaps to visually-pleasing masterpieces.

- **Position a pack.** Select a wall and group pictures in similar frames on floating shelves. (We have a mantle that honors our past dogs; one human prefers that we don't call it the "dead dog wall," but that's what we call it most of the time.)
- **Explode the elements.** Enlarge several pictures to poster sizes, and cover a wall. Or, use just one or two posters, and mount smaller pictures on or around them.
- **Up-cycle something ugly, or create a clothesline.** Use a bicycle wheel, an old clothesline, a large rustic frame strung with horizontal wire or rope, or even an antique bed frame. Clip unframed photos onto the item with clothespins.
- **Craft a cartoon, mimic a masterpiece.** Most photo editing programs allow you to trace the image, turning it into a comic of sorts, or apply an artistic style—watercolor, oil, pointalism, or abstract features—that can be remarkably effective. Benson's photos to the right are all the same picture, but edited for style.
- **Thrill with 3D.** shadow box displays create layered visual focus that's especially effective for memories of dogs who've crossed the rainbow bridge. Layering things that made your dog special—photos to the rear; collars or leashes to separate sections; a wisp of hair, his or her dog tag, or a ceramic paw print on top—keeps memories alive.

You can refresh your space, if you move pictures around periodically. Retiring a few to a closet temporarily and replacing them with new or different photos will give your home a new feel, and your memory a workout .



Letter to the Republic of Tea:

Could I bother you to send me one "get restored" Green Rooibos tea bag?

I ordered a tin with 6 "get restored" tea bags in it and received it a couple of weeks ago. The invoice was D17004014. I ordered this because although you send me samples from time to time, it's usually teas that I don't like. I don't care for camomile, hibiscus, or similar flavors. I was looking forward to trying "get restored."

Before I even opened the can, my Alaskan Malamute Leo somehow took it off the counter, chewed it open, and ate all of the tea bags. I have a picture of the chewed tin and the dog if that would help. Truly, what he did to that can is amazing.

Leo seemed to enjoy the tea. He and I don't always like the same things, and before I order more, I would truly like to try "get restored." Thus, my request.

Dear Citizen Jeannette,

Thank you for your email. For this order I will be happy to send you a canister of the Get Restored Tea. Please look for it to arrive shortly.

Sip by sip,
Minister of Citizen Services



AMAL Tales
C/o Jeannette Y. Wick, Editor
306 Preston Road
Griswold, CT 06351