

# AMAL TALES

July 2013

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*Shedding Light on the  
Aluk Mals*

## *President's Message:*

### *The Forevers Happening Right Now*

AMAL just moved the last Aluk malamute—ironically, a girl named Quick—out of Helena to her fur-ever home in the Omaha, Nebraska, area (see her story on page 7). Many thanks to our newest affiliate, Taysia Blue, for making this happen, and lots of thanks to the Lewis and Clark Humane Society for hanging in for Quick's adoption.

While this is a great moment, we must recognize that many Aluk malamutes are still waiting in our affiliates for their forever homes. You can see a list of these malamutes at the following web page: <http://www.malamuterescue.org>. If you live in the affiliates' service areas, or know folks who do, please consider adopting or fostering or helping others do so. These mals had a rough life until their rescue. They are now ready for homes of their own. Human companionship, the love we have for them and the tenderness of a hand are just what they need. Here are seven who still need homes:



After adopting one of the Aluk malamutes and watching her grow, I can say that it's been one of the most enjoyable things I've done. Cinder has grown from a shy, fear-biting dog, into a handsome happy girl who loves it when we come home, take her for a walk, or sit and watch TV with her. Many adopters are reporting the same reaction as their Aluk malamutes grow out of their shells, integrate into their homes, and become part of families. It's a tremendous thing watching Cinder act just as a malamute should.

While thankful for her progress, I am incredibly thankful for all our supporters who stood up to help us along the road to help these dogs, from the pensioner in Oregon who mailed me a \$5 check all the way to the adopters and foster homes who are helping these dogs have a complete life.

You can't imagine how grateful I am to the folks who kicked in to help. Thank you so much.

—Bob Sutherland, President, AMAL



**Alaskan Malamute Assistance League**

*We Pull For Them*

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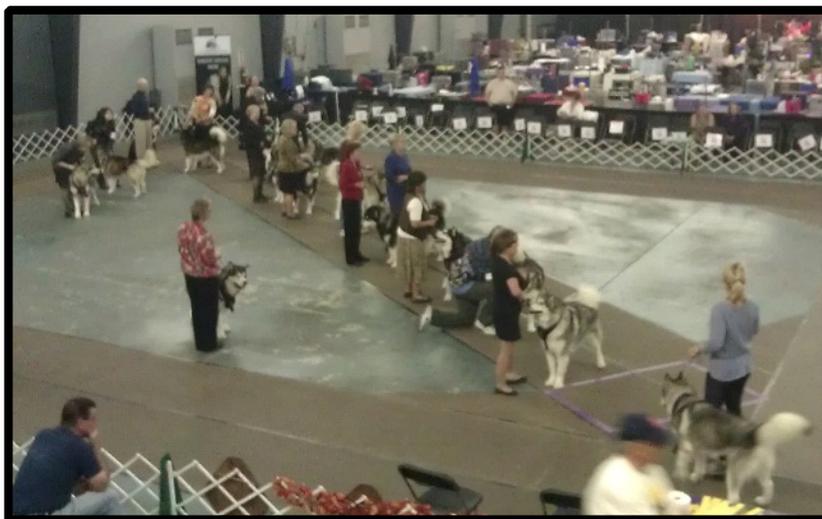
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Visit AMAL on the Internet at  
[www.malamuterescue.org](http://www.malamuterescue.org)

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 fundraising 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



## 2013 National Specialty Show

It's getting close to that time of the year again! Before you know it, it will be October—Alaskan Malamute Club of America's National Specialty Dog Show time!

This year's event is October 6-13 and will be held in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin. The region includes North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Missouri.

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

AMAL's usual fundraising booth will sell donated items!

If you have donations for the booth, please drop them at the booth during the show, or send them in advance to:

**Mark them:** "For AMAL Booth Sales"  
**Attn:** Kris Kerr c/o SCAMP  
1660 South Church St. #391  
Watertown, WI 53094

One show highlight is the Rescue Showcase, honoring AMAL rescue dogs and their owners. It is scheduled for Wednesday evening, October 9. AMAL regional affiliates arrange ambassador dogs from rescue and as each dog circles the ring, a brief biography is read. From harsh beginnings to overcoming life's obstacles, these great dogs contribute in different ways to loving families, service activities and wrestling companions! An informal reception after the event allows the participants and AMAL folks to relax and mingle.

This year's showcase is shaping up: there is a full list of participants and we're hoping to see a lot of the affiliates attend! See you in Oconomowoc...

Sharon Nichols, 2013 National Specialty Rescue Showcase Chairperson for AMAL

Fluff and Puff  
WAMAL's Sylvia Bailey



Show ring at 2012 Nationals



**Alaskan Malamute Assistance League**

..... *We Pull For Them*

## Oreo: Shiny Outside, Loving Inside

Courtney Bolin-Walker

From Malamute Village Records: "OREO" EVALUATED 3-17-12: Easy to get out of kennel, and pretty good on leash, but shy and uninterested in treats at first. After a while, she did take treats and was gentle. OK with grooming and handling, didn't really care—not interested in toys, friendly in a quiet way. Started to relax after some time. UPDATES: 3-30-12: Was a bit shy when she got outside. Could get her to move a bit if pulled on leash. Once around the lot and she wanted back in—laid down. Otherwise, nice enough. 6-9-12: Once around and wanted back in. Still a bit shy. Likes treats. 6-16-12: Doesn't like to be outside for very long. 6/24/12: Friendly enough - likes petting and treats, talkative - small overall size."

And now...Oreo joined our family at the end of July 2012. The morning of her first full day here, she decided that she was an inside dog who wanted to be near her new big brother Jasper (14 when Oreo arrived) and older sister Kita (also 14). Jasper has been her mentor, patient but able to rein in her neophyte rambunctiousness. She worships him.

Oreo struggled a bit with doorways at the beginning. Now she's cautious but not fearful when she encounters a new door. If Jasper goes in, then she's right behind him! She's mastering leash walks and car rides with Jasper as her model. In fact, she jumped in the car by herself for the first time on June 23, 2013 when we were heading out for a huge playdate with beagles, whippets, and a terrier of assorted ages. Poor girl was trying to keep pace with the whippets! All in all, she played well and appropriately with everyone—including a little girl who couldn't resist the lure of a yard full of dogs.

Once we removed Oreo's broken, dead, straw-like coat, she exploded with shiny, luxurious mal-hair! We never expected her coat to be this gorgeous. She's put on a few pounds, maybe a few too many. Oreo looks more like a proper malamute now, just fun size. Brushing is one of her favorite parts of her dog's life; her eyes glaze and she slumps into a mushy lump with the first brush stroke.

We adore Oreo. She is a remarkable girl with an immense capacity for love and companionship. She's always ready for a cuddle or some playtime, but never demands anything when she knows it's more important for her to just be close. Kita crossed the Rainbow Bridge over Memorial Day weekend, and Oreo's innate empathy shone. A sad time in the family was eased by Oreo's presence. We are blessed to have her!



Keena



Oreo Before



Oreo After

## Keena: Loving Life

Robin Ray

When we first contacted WAMAL, we were looking for a young female playmate/companion for our five year old male Lakota. We had lost our beloved female and Lakota's constant companion to old age several months prior.

We originally set up an appointment to meet another female that was just coming in to rescue. I had my five year old grandson who was struggling with a fear of dogs with me. When he met Keena, she leaned into his leg, took a treat and allowed him to give her a quick pet! He just knew she was the one. As we drove away he said excitedly "Well, it's all up to Lakota now, I hope he likes her!"

I was somewhat worried about Lakota. He hadn't always been real dog friendly. Well, no need to worry: From the day he and Keena met, they've been companions, playmates and walking partners.

Keena was very fearful of most things—anything that made noise, moved or had four walls—when she first came to live with us. She was also very food motivated and would try new things if there was a yummy treat involved. In the last five months she has become a happy, confident family member, although she would still much rather be outside than in. Every day she makes us laugh. She loves her walks to the river, playtime with Lakota, long grooming/petting sessions and mealtimes (which, she tells us about very loudly!) But, most of all she loves the time she gets to spend with her favorite little boy. The bond they have made is very special. When she hears a loud noise and hides behind him for comfort you can just see him beam with pride!



## Special Donations Received by AMAL

April 1 – June 30, 2013

- In honor of Angela Tran's birthday, by Teri Arana
- In memory of his dear friend, Denise Allen Miller, who introduced him to malamutes and was a great & kind person, by Jim Cheskawich
- In memory of Denise Allen Miller, by the Stegeman family.
- In loving memory of Charles Joseph, violin teacher and friend, by June Sakugawa
- In memory of Kenai "Fruity" Raney, by Conni Colella-Ersland.  
*Special thanks to Sue Raney for the generous crate donation*
- In memory or honor of Denali & Vinson, by Debora Castro
- In honor of Ayla, by Steven Rick & Maureen Shuh
- For helping mals in need, in honor of Chugach—would that every malamute has a home like he had and Denali had (with a foot of snow in the back yard!), by Steve Peters
- In honor of Indiana – the inspiration for Chewbacca, by the George Lucas Foundation.
- In memory or honor of Ginny & Jim Kirkham, Chukchi A. Mal, by Grace Ann Werner
- In memory of Thunder King's Hurricane (Sundance), by Bill & Sandy Dennis
- In memory of her past malamutes, by Mary Stice
- In memory of Alice Schlicker – grandma to Snobuc Malamutes, by Maria & Rolfe Dinwoodie
- In memory of Alice Schlicker, by Jeanne Dinwoodie



### A Must-See:

*AKC-registered breeders raising dogs in 'miserable' conditions*

<http://tinyurl.com/cnwcg6q>

### Award? Dog? Award? DOG!

AMAL President Bob Sutherland presented a plaque on behalf of the Alaskan Malamute Club of America to Anchorage's Polaris K-12 School. It acknowledges their hard work to designate the Malamute as their state dog. Alaska designated the Alaskan Malamute its official state dog on April 18, 2010. The students submitted a multi-year study to Alaska's legislature comparing different dog breeds. The Alaskan Malamute won paws-down over other dog breeds due to its long history, dating to the first settlers on the North American continent. Archeologists say that's at least 5,000 years. (The Siberian Husky, wasn't imported until 1908.) Alaskan malamutes contributed to every era in Alaska's history, and are actively involved in arctic expeditions today. They withstand the cold temperatures without booties, coats, or bedding straw.

Bob brought Valley with him to help—everybody needs a supervisor including (or maybe especially) Bob. Valley was a very shy girl, but look at these photos. She fits right in.

Several times she was swarmed including after the Group Photo. Bob says, "The award was a very good thing to do, but I have to tell you those kids, they always go for the dog."



## Changes: Night & Day

Ginny Rivielle

After we lost our precious long hair Siberian, Tonka, our world fell apart. A house without a dog is a tomb. John and I have had three wonderful rescues in the past: Onaway, Hildy and Tonka. The Aluk Malamutes were just becoming available. It took us five seconds to ask for one!

Beau (formerly Rambo) came to Florida, although he started with a rough trip from Virginia. When met him in Georgia, he was curled in a small ball in the back of the transporter's car. His body was shaking, his eyes terror-filled.

The first three days, he hid in a bedroom corner, so we brought food and water to him. Slowly, he started exploring. After consultation, our vet prescribed Prozac and it helped. We rejoiced when he ate his first dinner in the kitchen...every little step is a big triumph for him. We also implemented a program designed by a highly recommended behaviorist to help Beau trust humans and learn that a dog's life can be fun. Next, a University of Florida animal behavior specialist is going to make a home visit to assess Beau. She will take Beau into her one year program.

The biggest obstacle: Beau's days and nights were mixed up. He stayed awake all night, every night for a month, pacing, howling, tail chasing, whining, and chewing everything from John's shoes to our furniture. We took turns staying awake to calm him. Our vet prescribed gabapentin to make him sleepy. He is almost sleeping through the night now.

Meanwhile, Beau walks better with John, and he isn't having accidents in the house. He is learning that cars are not a bad thing, and he gets rewards for being good. He just started to show his belly, and got his first, although short, belly rub. He does not show signs of bolting as before. We had a stranger visit recently; Beau lay quietly on his lead alongside me. He also jumped on the bed while he was doing zoomies around the house! Seeing him having fun and playing with toys almost brings tears to my eyes. I regret that he doesn't have another dog friend to show him the ropes and make him feel more confident.

October 2012  
*Malamute Village*



*Beau rubs noses with John!*



*Denise with Chili & Juliet*



## A Sad Farewell, Denise

Denise (Allen) Miller passed away in April 2012 of breast cancer. She was president of Potomac Valley Alaskan Malamute Association in the Washington, DC, area for a number of years. Lynne Anderson shares these poignant memories:

Denise Allen, Marina Giesecke (also deceased), and I shared a common bond: our dogs. A friendship that started with dogs extended to all areas of our lives including facing life-threatening illness and impending death.

What do I remember of Denise? That requires filtering through memories that span more than 15 years. I remember visits to the dog park in D.C. where Denise's Magic and Marina's Tonka and Maluka played joyously. I remember our pride when the dogs were honored for their work with at-risk children. I remember parties to celebrate doggie birthdays (Chili's 3rd is pictured above) attended by well-mannered Malamutes and happy, proud owners. Who'd have thought we could get so many Mals to share that party spirit?

I remember the three of us crisscrossing the country to spend time together—and always with our dogs. I remember Denise's uncanny ability to relate to traumatized animals and bring out their best spirit. I remember clinging together through Marina's illness and getting strength from our ability to share everything—happiness, fears, successes and failures.

And after we lost Marina, I remember Denise's courage when she faced breast cancer. Denise was a strong woman. I spoke with her just a few days before she died. She said she had finished chemo and was essentially on "monitor" status. I cannot believe she is gone, but I know that whatever happened, the Denise I knew and loved was strong and undefeated.

Godspeed, my friend.

Lynne Anderson



## 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 2013 - June 2014

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 (at Individual/Family prices) and receive an updated Registry CD by emailing my request to [Ronajamals@gmail.com](mailto:Ronajamals@gmail.com). Those non-U.S. AMAL members who want CD's shipped to them should add \$10 for postage cost consideration.

#### 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

## AMAL's Newest Affiliate: Jackie Roach

Jackie, experienced in Siberian Husky rescue (Taysia Blue Rescue in Nebraska), has already provided great help with the Aluk dogs. If you read her blog entry about her cross country trip to pick up four Aluk Mals (<http://taysiablue.blogspot.com>), you'll see what a great addition Jackie and Taysia Blue will be to AMAL. Bob and Angela persuaded Jackie to join us. We are delighted to have you with us, Jackie. Welcome!

## Is That a Malamute?

Frequently, Malamute rescue teams are asked to identify dogs and determine if they're really Malamutes. Several years ago in Olympia, WA, the Malamute Nationals featured a good seminar on Malamute Coat Genetics. Nicole Royer gave the talk, and she has posted a good overview here:

<http://nicholescritters.homestead.com/malcolorgenetics.html>

Rescues find this useful to identify dogs with tan point, agouti, or other Mal colors that challenge breed ID.

## 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](mailto:membership@AMAL.org)

## New! Advertisements

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. Contact Jeannette Wick at [jywickrph@aol.com](mailto:jywickrph@aol.com) for advertising information.

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Save postage: Pick up your CD at the National Specialty Show - be sure to notify AMAL two weeks in advance so we will have enough CD copies at the AMAL booth



## How Quick? It's All Relative

Jackie Roach

On June 8, 2013, the last Aluk Malamute—Quick—left Helena and boarded a flight to Omaha. Quick was born at the Lewis and Clark Humane Society with megaesophagus (MegaE) in December 2011, as was another dog, Bambi. MegaE is a condition where the esophagus is enlarged and fails to push the food down to the stomach. MegaE dogs require additional care and management so finding a home for these two girls, ensuring that they would get that kind of attention, became a challenge.

Jackie and Mike Roach from Taysia Blue Rescue in Omaha had already taken six Aluk Malamutes. Experienced with MegaE dogs, they felt compelled to help one more. They decided to adopt Bambi, sight unseen. Bambi arrived in Omaha in last February. Her name was changed to Bettie and she's a heart thief—she steals everyone's heart.

Jackie and Mike were driven to help Quick, too. They brought Bettie to events and let her woo visitors as they talked about Quick and how she needed a home with a little extra level of care. At last, one of the Taysia Blue volunteers contacted Jackie and said, "We'd like to adopt Quick".

Quick, now Sura (which is Inuit for 'new life') has a home a few blocks from Bettie. She adores her canine brother. The very first time they played together, she grabbed his leash in her mouth and pulled him around the yard, clearly making herself at home and letting everyone know who was in charge. She bosses him around every chance she gets.

Bettie and Sura both exude supreme confidence which seems in contrast to their small, thirty-five pound frames and extra-long tails. They don't know that there's anything wrong with them; and they couldn't be more right.



## Deejay FM: Rocking On

Sylvia Bailey

In late June 2012, Bob Sutherland called from Malamute Village to talk about dogs picked for early release to rescue. WAMAL was preparing to take some, and the sooner the better now we had the go ahead. I love a good woolly Mal, and knowing we'd need every possible foster (including me), I said, "Are there any woollies there? Send one for me to foster." That's how I ended up with a two-year-old bony, terrified, woolly Mal named Garth.

Even before I flew to MT to transport the first dogs, I decided that if Garth was going to get over his fear of everything, he needed a good outgoing party Mal name. By the time he entered the crate in the rental van, he was Deejay Fuzzbutt McGuilcutty, the artist formerly known as Garth. That name stuck. He stuck too; by October, I'd adopted him. Also known as The Deejeers and Deejay FM, he is one extremely happy boy for the most part. Fear of everything still overcomes him at times, but he improves daily. When he arrived, he couldn't get beyond the end of the driveway without shrinking into the ground. Now he walks miles every week with his dog siblings. He enjoys time in the koi pond, and loves his huge dog house with the nice fluffy bed inside.

The most amazing thing about Deejay: he arrived lacking human socialization skills but incredible canine skills. I watch him interact with my two males and my female at length. He knows when to hold 'em, knows when to fold 'em, and he knows when to walk away. He's no pushover, but if he has to take a stand he takes it—without anger or resentment. His people skills are improving quickly, too. He loves to be touched, brushed, rubbed, and scratched. His favorite game is chase, not with his canine friends, but with me in the backyard. He darts from bush to bush, zipping as close to my legs as possible. His ear-to-ear smile says it all, and I imagine he has some serious bugs in that front grill of his by the time we are done playing.

Deejay may have been pointed at and sent away early because he was seen as useless, terrified and too woolly to sell, but I'm grateful every day I get to watch him enjoy his new life.



All Around the Nation

# Aluks Available for Adoption



**NIKITA**—Adult Female—Very energetic, friendly Nikita needs someone to do lots of outdoor activities with her. She enjoys playing with friendly male dogs but would probably do fine as an only dog. If placed with another dog, she would need to be the queen bee! Nikita needs secure containment as she has proved to be a bit of an escape artist. (moonsongmals.org)



**BLOSSOM**—Adult Female—Her name may be Blossom, but this pretty Malamute girl hasn't quite found her bloom yet. She is fearful when approached by people. Blossom doesn't have any problems with other dogs, but she doesn't interact with them. She will take treats from her caregivers and needs an adopter who has patience and understanding. (bestfriends.org)



**DUNCAN** - Young Adult Male - Duncan's lack of socialization has made him awkward and unsure. He is very vocal and also play-bows and seems to enjoy having people around; he just needs to learn how to bond and trust. Born in 2011, Duncan still has plenty of time to adjust to life as a beloved pet. Duncan has bonded strongly to his female run mate, Soxy (a border collie mix). (bestfriends.org)



**HOMER**—Young Male—Homer is a sweet boy who gets very excited about treats. He'd love to dance on his back feet to entertain you! Approximately 2 years old, Homer would love to live with a female dog about his size. (chaamp.org)



**LEXI**—Adult Female—Lexi is shy but wants human companionship. She loves walks outside but needs to learn not to pull on a leash. She is getting comfortable inside but needs a soft touch and patience. She is selective re: canine companions. (alaskamalamuterescue.com)



**BLACKJACK**—Young Adult Male—Blackjack's foster Mom has taught him to sit and stay and his canine friends are teaching him social manners. Happy, young Blackjack recently graduated from his obedience class! (alaskamalamuterescue.com)



**SPIRIT** -Young Male-Spirit is a youngster who likes interacting with his humans, having his tummy rubbed and giving hugs and kisses. He loves water pools and the garden hose. Not yet housebroken, unknown with small animals. (wamal.com)



**CHECKERS**-Adult Female—Checkers is about 3-4 years old, very shy and uninterested in treats or toys. She allows you to brush and handle her, and gets quite friendly when she gets to know you. She may be best as an "only dog." She walks okay on a leash and she is crate trained. (ncama.org)



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