

AMAL TALES

May, 2014

INSIDE:

- Bear, page 2
- A Special Thanks, page 3
- Dedications, page 4
- Dealing with Doggie Diarrhea, page 5
- **PLEASE PAY YOUR ANNUAL DUES**
Page 6
- Meet Kimi, page 7

*Billie Howliday
announces
spring's arrival
in a fur flurry*

President's Message:

Déjà Vu: Helping Mals in the UK

Texas Alaskan Malamute Rescue (TAMR) took in seven Alaskan Malamutes from a voluntary breeder release. The six females and one male adult-to-senior dogs were transported to Houston. Sadly one of the seven, a senior girl named Aspen, age 12, crossed the bridge ten days after arriving, due to serious medical conditions. The others are boarding and receiving needed veterinary care. Costs are staggering and we ask that you help. Older dogs take longer to place and can have significant health issues. Consider adopting one, or give a donation. You can do so by examining the TAMR home page (<http://www.texalmal.org/>) or Support the Texas 7 Malamutes (<http://rockindamoots.com/product-category/malamute/help-the-texas-7-malamutes/>) by purchasing t-shirts, hoodies or decals. You can also contribute directly to them via <http://www.texalmal.org/donate.html>

On Easter weekend, a "breeder" dumped 41 malamutes throughout the UK. Many were poorly fed, some had coats so matted, they had to be shaved. Some were merely urine soaked, one had a broken jaw which set itself, and a female delivered three pups. Many if not most of the dogs are poorly socialized and require some rehabilitative care. It's a scaled down version of what we had in Helena in 2012 and early 2013.

It's hard to imagine having this burden dumped on anyone. As we found, it takes a village to raise a pack—a Malamute Village. I hope each of you will pitch in and help the Alaskan Malamute Club's UK Rescue group. The easiest way to contribute is using PayPal at rescue@malamuterescue.org.uk. Mark your donation for the Ireland malamutes. By contributing financially, you enable them to do what is needed most—locate resources for the malamutes in their care.

The AMCA National Specialty will be here before we know it (see page 8). This year's specialty is in San Diego on November 2 through 8, 2014. We'll have our usual booth all week and the Rescue Showcase on November 7 in the afternoon. Please feel free to attend and join for a week of fun and fundraising.

Thank you again for your unwavering support.

—Bob Sutherland, President, AMAL



Alaskan Malamute Assistance League

..... *We Pull For Them*

AMAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Bob Sutherland

president@malamuterescue.org

Vice President

Susan Conant

vicepresident@malamuterescue.org

Secretary

Mike Ulman

secretary@malamuterescue.org

Treasurer

Sharon Nichols

treasurer@malamuterescue.org

Member at Large

Angela Brown

director@malamuterescue.org

Membership

Shel Simpson

membership@malamuterescue.org

GENERAL INFO

Hotline: (419) 512-2423

contact@malamuterescue.org

PO Box 54, Concord, NC 28026

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



Scarey-Bear No More!

Bear is a former rescue with Texas Alaskan Malamute Rescue. At the shelter, he was terrified—especially of men, although he seemed OK with my husband—so we offered to foster him. Our two other malamutes, Miki and Buck, accepted him quickly.

It took awhile to work through his fear of everything! His nickname was Scarey Bear. It took even longer to harness him. But we didn't give up, finally acclimating him to a harness so we could do some working activities. Then, we hooked him up with our female, Miki, who showed him the ropes. Before we knew it, this boy was mushing! He started to learn the mush commands, too.

Bear received his AKC alternative purebred listing. This past winter, he set out with Miki to earn the Working Team Dog title through the Alaskan Malamute Club of America. They completed four 10-mile dryland-mushing excursions to earn the title.

We are so proud of our boy. Bear will be 9 this year and is a cancer survivor. He's not scared of men anymore and is a normal happy dog. He's a goofball and we love him.

Rick and Delilah Hymas
Texas Alaskan Malamute Rescue





Gunner, a vigorous, handsome senior



Gunner and Star enjoying each other



A Note of Thanks

Thank You to the AMAL board for picking up the majority of expense for Gunner's bloat surgery.



Gunner and Star arrived here after Virgil Reed of Oklahoma Rescue died in 2009. We have no idea how these two came into rescue or forged their close bond. Star is now around 13 and Gunner is around 9. My notes indicate Virgil placed both dogs multiple times. Adopters always returned them. They are delightful dogs, but they have some endearing quirks that explain why they were not easily adoptable. We were told that they were a "bonded pair" and did not tolerate being separated. That was an understatement!



Gunner and Star came to us en route to New Mexico rescue. Star did not wish to stay in our house in the sun room if Gunner was housed in our kennel. Star broke out of her crate and dispensed all barricades between her and her friend "Malamute style." She didn't run away; she wanted to be with Gunner. Transport to New Mexico fell through. We had an opportunity to split the pair, but sighed and had the two stay here. As long as we respect the pairing, they are fine.

Life went on routinely for a couple of years....until Gunner bloated. After surgery, this sweet, easy boy showed us just how determined he could be. He was clearly feeling well enough to pull out his catheter and then to persistently dump the water bucket that replaced the catheter for hydration. The vet hospital ever-so-politely kicked him out, indicting he would "recover better and be happier at home." So, instead of several days in hospital under observation, Gunner was discharged after a little more than 24 hours.

At home, we acknowledged his rigid treatment preferences. We made special arrangements in the kennel near Star instead of in the house without her. We monitored him hourly to be sure he wasn't ripping his incision or involved in mischief. There was a terrifying moment when I looked out to see Star standing stock still and peering into Gunner's kennel run. I assumed that he was "down" and ran to see what new catastrophe had occurred. Not so...Star was just staring at Gunner, who sat as close to her as he could through the chain link. This may be anthropomorphism, but I think they really do love one another...

Anyway, his hospital recalcitrance was replaced by terrifying stubbornness about medicine, prescription foods, and on and on. Finally, the vet discontinued the medication, indicating it was essentially prophylactic. He's fine now and the terrible twosome is again playing gently and happily.

Dan and I are so grateful. So is Star. Gunner says thanks too, but has no concept how close he came to death.

Lynne Anderson



AMAL Tales is The Alaskan Malamute Assistance League's Newsletter, published quarterly in the spring, summer, fall and winter. All rights reserved. Copyright 2014.

All articles and photographs remain the property of their respective authors.

Submit articles, stories and/or letters to the editor to:
 Jeannette Wick
 Email: jywickrph@aol.com
 Phone: (703) 629-6259

The Alaskan Malamute Assistance League (AMAL) is not liable and assumes no responsibility for loss or damages arriving directly or indirectly from errors occurring in the publication of AMAL Tales. Opinions expressed by our correspondents do not necessarily reflect the standards, practices or opinions of AMAL's Directors or AMAL Tales' editorial staff.

Special Donations

February 1, 2014 through April 30, 2014

For the Texas Seven Mals, by Christopher Shipley

For the Texas Seven Mals, by Skyland Malamutes

For the Texas Seven Mals, by Nancy M. Cassick

For MUSH (Malamutes Unsettled Seeking Homes) , in memory of the Wingerter family (Margaret, Don & Mala), by Charlene LaBelle

In memory of Donald Wingerter, by Thomas and Ann Dillon

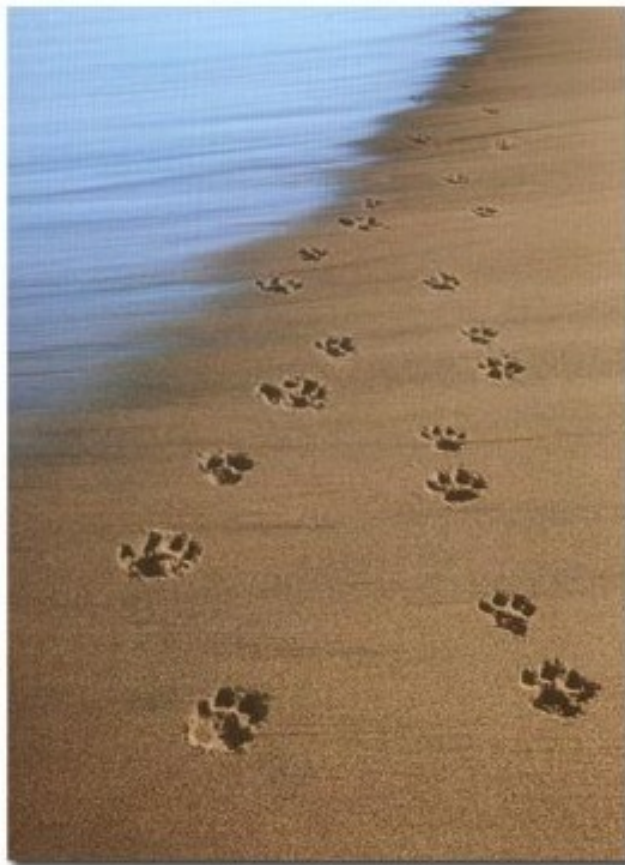
In memory of Donald Wingerter, by Paul & Dorothy Brown (Aunt & Uncle) and LT COL Roberta Ernst, Blaine Ruhbusch (cousin)

To help other mals in need, In memory of "Ch. Snobuc Calls the Wind Mariah CGC", beloved companion to Nancy Cassick, by Maria & Rolfe Dinwoodie

In memory of Honey Bear, Sugar Bear and Sunshe Bear Ford, by Patricia & Thomas Ford

In memory of Sable, by Michael & Carol Schneider

In honor of Clay Markham & Jocelyn Goodall, by Nick Lambert Burchette



Meet the Editor

I write for a living, and recently, I heard from an editor who'd been away for years. She asked me to tell her the story that is my current life. After reading it, I thought you might enjoy it. It seems to be about dogs:

I retired. I told people I was retired. I certainly meant to be retired. And bit by bit, I took on more and more of the work I love, and really, I am not retired at all. I write for journals, a few marketing firms, a drug distributor, a couple of textbook companies. I do a dog newsletter pro bono. Love it, hate it, love it.

I teach at UConn kind of part time. I sometimes bring my malamutes to campus. Kids mob me and yell, "Go HUSKIES!!!" Pfffft. We have the "These are not huskies" talk. It's nice to spend time with smart, malleable, funny kids. I tie veterinary medicine and the benefits of companion animals in at every opportunity.

I still travel between DC and CT. Back and forth, two 90 pound malamutes and me in a Prius. You know you travel too much when you pull up to a gas station on the New Jersey Turnpike and the attendant yells, "Hey Leo! How YOU doin'?" to your dog. I have become a HUGE fan of books on tape. I am working through the list of 2012 bestsellers (because that's what's now available at the library on audiobooks). Someday, I'll do 2013. Most of all I love detective novels, especially those that have a dog in them, like Spenser Quinn's novels about the Little Detective Agency. Many people allege to laugh until they wet their pants. I actually do.

I have no idea why I live for my malamutes. Charlotte, age 10, killed a deer Sunday in the yard. Disposing of the evidence was a task worthy of *Law & Order Criminal Intent* or *Breaking Bad*. Deer are large, much larger than they appear in the rear view mirror. Leo, age 2, has no idea his name is Leo. He thinks his name is "GoshdarnitLeoshutupalready," and "Dropthatshoe-chickenwing-racoonNOWorlwillkillyou" is an endearment.

I took self-defense (like really, would ANYONE want to attack a fat girl who is almost 60 and is always accompanied by two 90-pound dogs? [Don't answer that.]). I passed with flying colors, almost incapacitating a police with a snap kick to a sensitive area. That's because I have two 90-pound malamutes, and I have to literally fight to eat the food on my own plate or pull them from the gutter when they see a squirrel carcass.

And that would be my life. What's up with you, and when are you coming up? -Jeannette

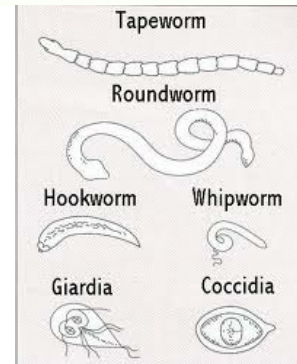
A Stepwise Approach to Chronic Diarrhea in Malamutes

Jeannette Wick

For a while, all three of our dogs had frequent bouts of diarrhea; all were rescues that had been neglected or roamed so long that their main source of nutrition was garbage. Many vet visits, countless rounds of metronidazole and other antibiotics, and much carpet scrubbing were discouraging. The dogs still had diarrhea. We finally found a vet who helped, and since then, we've used these simple, inexpensive tricks and resolved the diarrhea completely.

(1) Re-treat the dog for any diarrhea-causing infection or infestation.

- If the dog has had worms (especially whipworm) in the recent past and been treated, use Panacur once a month for four months. Worms tend to hide, and reproduce on a three-week cycle, so treating repeatedly will kill new worms.
- Ask your vet to prescribe Diawin. Diawin is a mix of neomycin and Peps-Bismol-like antacid and charcoal. Generally, you'll see firmer stools within days.



Many worms cause diarrhea in dogs.

Risk of infestation increases if dogs roam or miss their monthly heartworm treatments.

(2) Make sure that you feed the dog three or more small meals a day for at least a month, as opposed to feeding him once or twice a day.

- Try switching to a high quality dog food other than chicken, beef, turkey or lamb to rule out food allergy. Consider rabbit, venison, fish, or even raw food.
- Add ½ cup of mashed pumpkin or sweet potato to each meal whether raw or commercial food. It firms stool and soothes the gut.
- Feed the dog a little cottage cheese with each meal.
- Some dogs develop diarrhea when they don't consume enough fiber. Consider a high-fiber food or add one tablespoonful unflavored psyllium husks (the generic, unflavored version of Metamucil, available at health food stores). Key point: unflavored. Dogs don't like the flavored versions.
- Remove the dog's water bowl ½ hour before you feed him, and keep it away for an hour afterward. Some dogs eat and then drink too much and induce their own watery diarrhea—this is called dumping syndrome.



This is whipworm, a tenacious infection that causes diarrhea and blood loss in dogs.

(3) Try probiotics, and continue these even if you go to Tylan (see #4). We put our new dogs on probiotics for a few months regardless of their stool. Probiotics have many proven health benefits, and can correct bacterial imbalances that dogs often develop while on the lam.



Psyllium husks come from an ornamental grass. Almost 90% of our psyllium is grown in India. Don't try to grow your own! That would be silly-um!

(4) Still dealing with diarrhea after three weeks? Last, try Tylan. Tylan is an antibiotic that belongs to the macrolide class (like erythromycin), but it's also an anti-inflammatory. Dogs don't process Tylan through their liver, but it soothes their intestines. Tylan is ultimately eliminated through the stool and urine, so it is unlikely to cause liver disease or worsen a pre-existing condition. You can order the powder on the Internet without a prescription for about \$50 for a large jar. Its most frequent use is in poultry and swine, and it must never be given to humans!!!

- Note that dogs hate the taste, so you'll need to disguise it. We use liver-wurst, peanut butter or cheese. Eventually, they become accustomed to the taste and you can mix it in their food.
- Start with ½ teaspoonful three times a day for at least two weeks.
- If the dog's stool is firmer after two weeks, gradually reduce the dose, lowering the dose 1/8 teaspoonful every week—so week 1, you'll give ½ teaspoonful twice a day, and 3/8 teaspoonful with one meal. And week 2, you'll give 3/8 teaspoonful twice a day, and ½ teaspoonful with one meal. And so forth....It's best to make a chart so you remember the dose reductions.



Mals on the Web

AMAL's web site (<http://www.malamuterescue.org>) is a valuable resource for Malamute owners, actual or prospective. If you haven't tagged it in your favorite sites, please visit. On it, you'll find 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 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

Do You Shave Your Dog in
Summer?

Every malamute owner hears that question. When you answer correctly--no--many people will try to convince you you're cruel or ignorant. People who don't own malamutes often seem to think they know more about the breed than malamute owners do. Oh well.

Now, you can refer "interested parties" to this web page: <http://tinyurl.com/mxcq93q>

The page explains the purpose of a heavy undercoat, and the risks of overheating when the undercoat is shaved and the dog loses protection from the sun's rays.

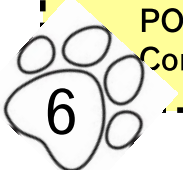
All you have to do is convince people to read it!



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



Meet Kimi

Hi all! I was given the name Kimi and my humom told me it means "she who is without equal" in Japanese. I have no idea what Japanese is, but I like that name better than #88. I was like some others that came to MoonSong Malamute Rescue in the summer of 2012 - released from a Montana puppy mill bust. Before that, life was very scary and I was always hungry and wondering when I would be fed or have clean water again. The local shelter took in more than 150 of us.

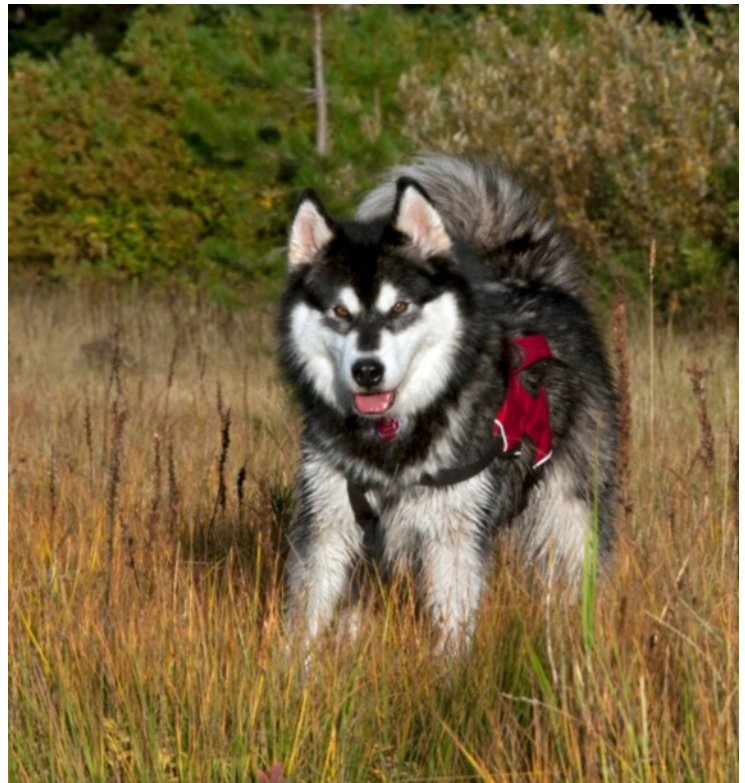
I was "emaciated" when they seized me and my pack members. I weighed only 35 pounds and had a silver-dollar-sized scar on my back from the fights that erupted when food was tossed our way. Because of a legal case, no one could take us for walks, and I was so afraid I didn't really want some stranger trying to take me anywhere. Volunteers said I was "too shy to walk" when they were finally able to exercise all the dogs. I spent eight months in a 5x5 foot kennel until my future humom helped me get out and get some fresh air. It was scary at first, but then I realized just what I had been missing.

I was one of the lucky ones who the breeder released before he went to trial. My future humom was so happy, because she knew I really needed out and she was willing to foster me. Since I've been in my foster home, which is now my permanent home, I've played with and learned from some fun furry companions. I've learned about living in a house and I really like it. I'd never played with toys, but I sure do like trying to tear up the toys around here. But my all-time favorite activities are chasing the ball outside or going on long hikes in the mountains. I also just love ski-joring in the winter time and my humom says I really have "drive," whatever that is. All I know is I like to run and pull! She also calls me a Malagator since I just love to swim.

Since I absolutely LOVE food, my foster mom has already been able to teach me "sit," "down," and "paw" for treats. She's also taught me to "stay" before I dive into my meals, but that's still really hard. I've graduated from one obedience training class and am now in my second class. I like my daily walk with another foster dog and sniffing all the new smells, but the vehicles and strange people we meet still scare me. The big bus is the scariest thing so far, but I must be getting used to it, since it doesn't make me scream in fear anymore. I am still shy about meeting new people, but it really helps if they feed me treats. My humom says I've come a long way from the cowering little girl in a kennel. I have to agree!



*This is Kimi in June, 2012.
A pretty face, but a timid demeanor.*



*This is a recent photo of Kimi.
What a gorgeous girl!*



SAVE THE DATES!!!!!!

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 great characteristics of the breed and to spotlight adopters – people 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!

More details to follow in next newsletter issue...

Alaskan Malamute Assistance League
c/o Wick
306 Preston Road
Griswold, CT 06351