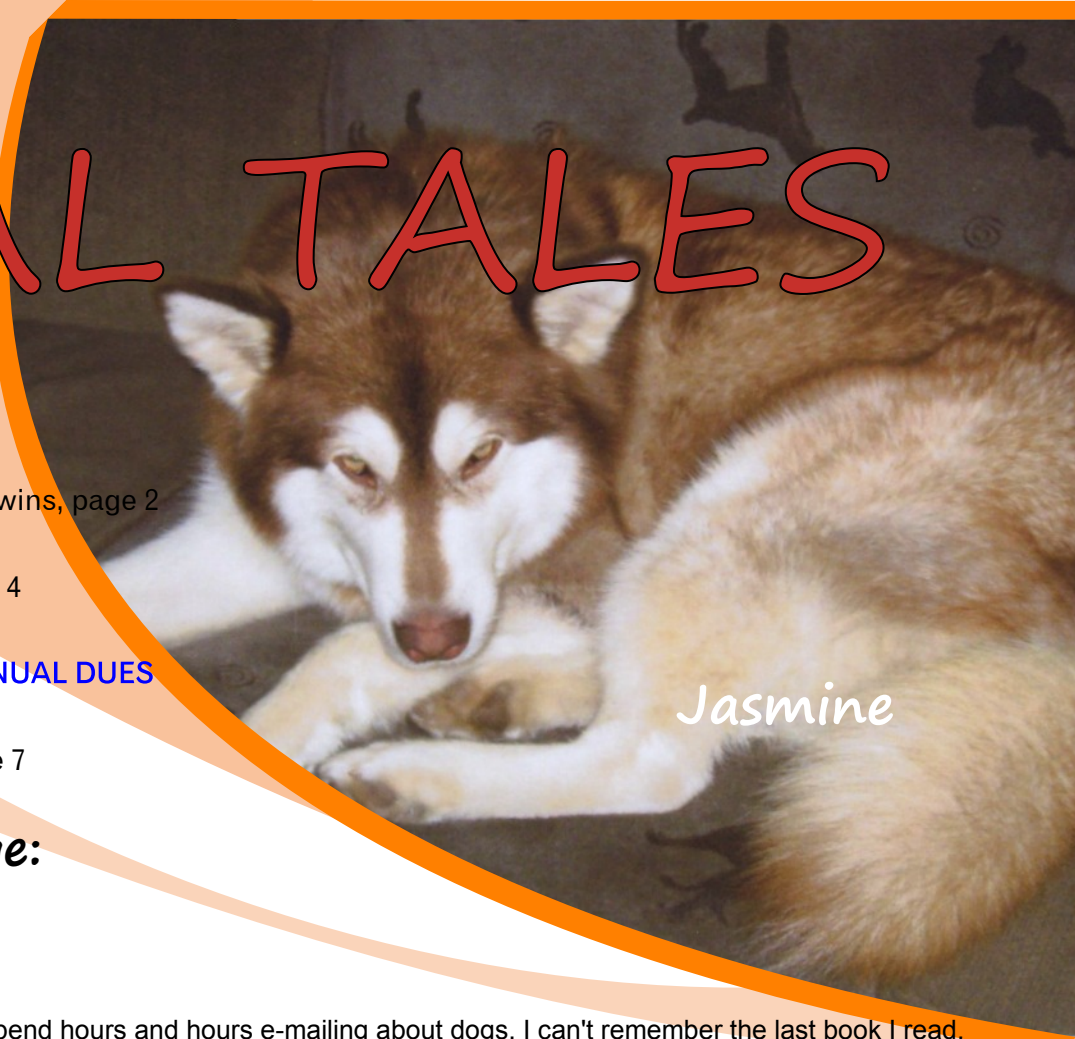


# AMAL TALES

May, 2015

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- **PLEASE PAY YOUR ANNUAL DUES**  
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Jasmine

## President's Message:

### *I Want to Quit*

**I Want To Quit!** My health is bad. I spend hours and hours e-mailing about dogs. I can't remember the last book I read. I've spent days trying to find a foster home. I swear, I walk away from my computer to stretch my legs—let the dogs out—and come back to find another dog in desperate need. I save one dog, and two more take its place. I just received another picture, another sad soul with tormented eyes that peer out of a malnourished body. I just got off the phone. "Are you a Malamute Rescue? We want to adopt a male to breed to our female." I have trusted the wrong people—had faith and then been heartbroken...

### **I Want To Quit! AND THEN...**

My mally lays her head in my lap. She comforts me with her gentle presence. An adopter thanks me for the most wonderful dog on Earth, and cannot imagine life without this friend—their lives are changed, and they are so grateful. One of my adopted rescues has visited a nursing home. A patient who has spent the last few years unable to communicate, not connecting, lifts his hand to pat the huge head in his lap, softly speaks his first words in ages to this gentle fur child. A Good Samaritan has found and vetted a lost malamute, "I can't keep him, but I'll take care of him until you find his forever home." I have friends I have never seen, but we share tears, joys, and everything in between. I am not alone.

I am blessed with family of the heart, my fellow rescuers. Rescuers who'll overnight or foster your dog while you seek transport. There are rescuers not used to or comfortable with your breed, but who put aside their discomfort to help. There are foster-care providers who love their foster dogs, and help to make them whole again. There are rescuers whose talents and determination give us tools to help us. There are rescuers we call on for help in a thousand ways, who answer us, who hear our pleas.

I know I cannot save every malamute in need. I know my efforts are a mere drop in a sea. I know that if I take on just one more, those I have will suffer.

I want to quit! **But I won't.** When I feel overwhelmed I want to quit! **Not today.** There's another malamute needing rescue and I can help.

This piece is dedicated, with love and gratitude, to all my fellow rescuers.  
Original author: Joan C. Fremo (updated and shortened by MR for AMAL)

Michael Roach, President, AMAL



**Alaskan Malamute Assistance League**

..... *We Pull For Them*

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[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

## Playing with the Big Dogs! AMAL Newsletter Recognized

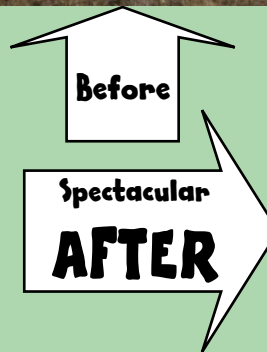


On February 15, 2015, the Alaskan Malamute Assistance League (AMAL) received a great honor. It won a Maxwell Medallion for its quarterly newsletter, *AMAL Tales*. Content and layout editor Jeannette Wick was present at the banquet in New York City to receive the medallion on AMAL's behalf. The awards ceremony was

held during the Westminster Dog Show.

The Maxwell Medallion is presented by the Dog Writers Association of America, and commemorates Maxwell Riddle. Riddle was a prolific, knowledgeable, and devoted columnist and author from Cleveland, OH, and an authority on dogs. Receipt of a Maxwell Medallion is a great honor, as it represents the respect and admiration of the professional dog writing community.

Few volunteer organizations are able to pull together and publish a quality newsletter on a regular basis. A huge malamute howl for all AMAL members who submitted articles, proposed ideas, sent the gorgeous pictures that certainly must have enticed the judges, and proofread proofread proofread.



## Java Jack Frost



WAMAL sends a HUGE thank you to AMAL for helping Java Jack Frost find his new life in Washington state. Jack needed heartworm treatment and AMAL was there for him. Jack has been doing absolutely wonderful. His foster parents have been grooming him every day and he looks several years younger now! He is very sweet, well behaved, and loves his kitty siblings.



**Alaskan Malamute Assistance League**

..... *We Pull For Them*

## Robin c. Valentine, VMD, Malamute Lover, Friend to AMAL



Robin C. Valentine, VMD, 40, passed away peacefully on March 21, 2015 at the Boca Raton Regional Hospital after a short illness. Robin was born August 7, 1974 in Lansdale, PA and graduated from North Penn High School. She received her bachelor's degree from Mount Holyoke College (MHC) in South Hadley, MA, majoring in Neuroscience and Behavior.

An accomplished equestrian, she rode competitively in major events including the Nation's Cup in Paris as part of the MHC team. In 2002, she earned her Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine and Surgery from the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine in Philadelphia. Dr. Valentine was a gifted and dedicated practitioner who began her career practicing as an emergency and critical care clinician throughout Pennsylvania, New York, and Virginia.

Her interests and scope in medicine were extensive, encompassing both modern medical science and integrative, holistic approaches including acupuncture. Eventually settling in South Florida, she established Valentine Veterinary Medical Services specializing in house calls, emergencies and surgery.

Robin was a passionate advocate for abandoned and injured animals, always willing to take on a tough case. She volunteered her skills to animal shelter and rescue organizations, wildlife rescue, and spay and neuter clinics. She enjoyed biking and exploring outdoors with her Alaskan Malamutes on the nearby beaches. She also studied, practiced, and was certified to teach various yoga disciplines.

Robin touched the lives of all who knew her with her smile, kindness, compassion, dedication, strong will, determination, mighty spirit, and sense of humor.

Robin is survived by her parents Jim and Laureen Valentine of Lansdale, PA; sister Erika Valentine of Westfield, NY; nieces Maeve and Liadan Quinn and nephew James Quinn of Westfield, NY; and grandfather Norman Valentine of Ambler, PA. Friends wishing to remember Dr. Valentine may make contributions to the Tri-County Animal Rescue ([Tricountyanimalrescue.com](http://Tricountyanimalrescue.com)), a 100% no kill animal rescue facility, 21287 Boca Rio Road, Boca Raton, FL 33433. Donations will benefit medical care for rescued animals.

Robin's father writes, "The malamute pictured top right was Kharma, Robin's handsome male who died of cancer a few years ago. He was a magnificent dog, almost human. Robin worshiped him. Robin's malamute, Atreya (pictured above and to the right), was successfully re-homed. Atreya is loving her new home and plays constantly with her other rescue buddy. They have a nice yard and frequently swim in the pool and ocean. We could not have found a better home and stay in touch regularly."



*Contact Jim and Lauri Valentine at 2030 Creek Way, Lansdale, PA 19446*

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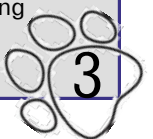
Submit articles, stories and/or letters to the editor to:

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# Special Donations

February 1, 2015 through April 30, 2015



In memory of Sirius – Black Ice's Flaming Sirius, WTD, ROMWD, by Karina Burger

My friend for life – Maly, & in memory of Thumper, by Glenn & Priscilla Parker

In memory of Sundance (Thunder King's Hurricane), by Bill & Sandy Dennis

In honor of Chuckchl Kennel, by Grace Ann Werner

In honor of our friends' treasured malamute: Shasta Sheer, who lost her battle with cancer, by J. Hamende

## 2015 AMCA National Specialty Show

### AMAL Booth & Rescue Showcase



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.

Keep the dates open! 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. A mailing contact & address for sales items will be posted closer to the event.

Hope to see you there!  
Sharon Nichols  
2015 Showcase Chairperson



### *Outwitting Storage Mites*

- Purchase high quality pet foods and treats; look for brands that have very little particulate debris at the bottom of the bag.
- Do not buy dry food in torn or punctured bags.
- Purchase small quantities (less than a 30-day supply) of dry food and treats.
- Do not use old or outdated pet food or buy dry food that is nearing expiration.
- Store pet foods in airtight, rodent-proof containers in cool, dry environments, or
- Divide the bag of pet food into one week portions and place in freezer-safe storage bags and keep the food in a freezer until needed.
- Consider switching to grain-free canned food or home feeding.
- Wash food storage containers frequently in detergent and hot water. Dry completely before refilling with food.
- Clean bowls daily using detergent and hot water.
- Vacuum food storage areas and pet living quarters often.
- Remember that dogs can react to mite carcasses, so freezing food that is infested will kill the mites but it will not solve the problem.

## *Storage Mites: Common Allergen* Jeannette Wick

It's the time of year when humans complain about seasonal allergies, their complaints accompanied by sneezing, watery eyes, and runny noses. Malamutes sometimes develop allergies, but their symptoms usually develop in their skin. We've had several malamutes that suffered with agonizing itching or hair loss, and learned early that a quick trip to the dermatologist for patch testing is well worth the initial and sometimes costly fee. If an allergy can be diagnosed, allergy shots are inexpensive and very effective. Untreated, allergies can lead to secondary yeast or bacterial infections, hair thinning, and black pigmentation on the groin.

Leo came to us at age one and seemed to be an itchy fellow. He also chewed and licked his forepaws and feet, leaving ugly red stains. The dermatologist diagnosed him with an allergy to hard-shelled insects. We have a constant low level infestation of lady bugs, but his specific sensitivity to storage mites was off the charts.

I'd never heard of storage mites. These invisible eight-legged creatures, pictured above left, are closely related to dust mites, one of the most common causes of human allergies. Like dust mites, they are widely implicated in human and animal allergic disease, and sometimes called mold mites. They thrive on moisture or increased humidity, growing fast in protein-rich environments like cereals, fodder, and dry feed stuffs. One female lays up to 800 eggs in nine days.

Dogs that consume grain storage mites and carcasses may develop a skin condition called atopic dermatitis. Studies have shown that storage mites are common contaminants in opened and unopened commercial dry dog food. Once the temperature reaches 77°F to 86°F or the relative humidity exceeds 80%, these mites thrive. They can also live to temperatures as cold as 0°F, so once they're in the food, they (and their allergy-producing carcasses and feces) hang around. The sidebar gives tips to deal with storage mites.

It's critical to know that allergy shots can take 6 weeks to 6 months to work, and patience is the key. Giving the shots is quite simple, and Leo rarely even notices he's being injected. We inject Leo with an allergy serum made specifically for him every 20 days. He's been on this regimen since August 2014, and his coat is fuller. He scratches less. He still licks his forepaws, and we suspect it's more habit than allergy.



### Ingredients:

1 (15 ounce) plain or vanilla yogurt

3 tablespoons honey

One of the following:

- 1 (5 ounce) jar beef baby food (or chicken)
- ½ ripe banana
- 2 tablespoons peanut butter

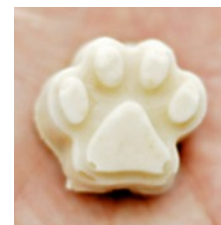
## Homemade Copycat Frosty Paws

### Directions

Mix all ingredients well.

Spoon into small plastic cups and freeze.

Pop out of the plastic cups to serve.



If you're hosting a puppy party and need a fancier treat, consider using paw-shaped molds, available here:  
<http://www.teamtailgateshop.com/ch11275.html>

## AMAL Membership Application/Renewal

July 2014 - June 2015

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  
PO Box 7161  
Golden, CO 80403

## Seven Secrets to Successful Facebook Pages

1. Post quality content consistently. Post only if you have something of value to say.

2. Focus on "fan interaction" rather than collecting "LIKES." More than 80% of your followers never visit your page—they only look at their news feeds! Facebook popularity is determined by interaction; without engagement, your posts lose priority on followers' (often busy) news feeds. Provide information, but also consume it.

- Ask your followers for ideas and run contests
- Involve followers in decision-making when possible
- Incorporate specific "LIKE" requests. For example, "Show appreciation for this gift with a LIKE!"

3. Post at various times of the day for better exposure.

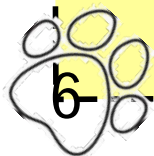
- Recruit several volunteers to be Facebook administrators to ensure that posts pop up around the clock.
- Pre-schedule your posts to go out to your fans at different times during the next day.
- To avoid duplicate post, schedule posts to delete, then repost the same post later.
- SHARE visitors' important posts or re-post them on your wall—especially special sales and offers from reputable pet stores (online and local), recalls and good quality foods ([www.dogfoodadvisor.com](http://www.dogfoodadvisor.com)).

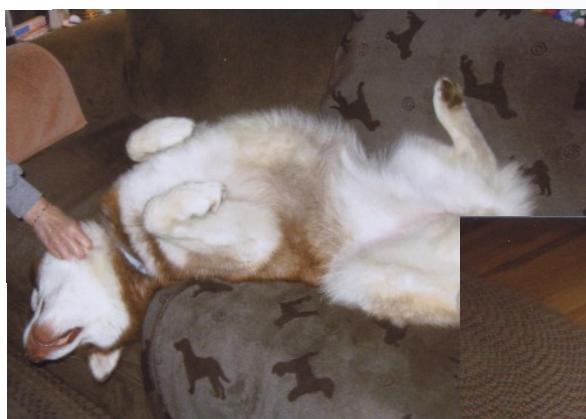
4. Balance between posts with photos (more likely to attract attention, but reach fewer fans) with "Text Only" posts (which reach more followers, but may not stimulate as much interest).

5. Build strong local support by posting on and tagging local, pet-related Facebook pages—veterinarians, pet and pet food stores, shelters.

6. Link your Facebook and web site pages! Instead of simply posting announcements on your web site, include a link that encourages visitors to visit your Facebook page and vice versa. Put a Facebook feed on your web site as well.

7. Monitor! Track what people like and give them more.





## *A Tail of Two (or more) Cities: Jasmine*

Jasmine is a tropical flower grown widely in tropical climates and cherished for its tea-like fragrance. Jasmine is a Disney princess in the popular Aladdin movie, known for her free-spirit, confidence, and kindness. Jasmine is a Montana malamute born in October, 2011 who appears to have all the characteristics of the flower and the princess.

The back-story is this: Malamute Village dispatched Jasmine with care to Alaskan Malamute Rescue of Delaware (AMROD) in May 2013, where she remained until February 2014. That was when Marcel Tardie found her on the Internet, fell in love, and adopted her. Marcel and his family have had several malamutes, but Jasmine is their first red.

Their face-to-face story started at a commuter parking lot in a New England state, where AMROD asked Marcel to wait for the dog bus that travels the east coast every Saturday. People wait there happily and nervously for the bus's 1 PM arrival every Saturday, and hear the bus—a large converted horse trailer fitted with individual kennels—before they see it. The yapping and barking are ear-shattering. In February 2014, the bus arrived and like a miracle, Jasmine emerged, and a new family formed. Marcel took Jasmine home to city one: the Tardie home in a bordering New England State.

This 92-pound beauty has little fondness for other dogs, except for her dear friend Jack, a black lab. She does, however, love people and in particular, she loves visiting the nursing home. Her visits began when Marcel introduced her to his mother, a resident at Holiday Nursing Home in city two in yet another state: Rhode Island. According to nursing home employees, Jasmine is like the dog bus—they often hear her before they see her! This garrulous girl enters the nursing home and announces her presence in typical malamute woos and woo-hoos, and keeps talking until it's time to go. The nursing home residents love her, as did Marcel's mother who passed away in January at age 97. Jasmine continues to visit Holiday Nursing home regardless, and she is pictured with a resident to the right. (Note that Holiday's resident cat, Butterscotch, seems to disappear when Jasmine arrives. Funny how that happens.)

Marcel calls Jasmine, "a big, big baby." Yes, she has her own pillow. Of course she's allowed to sleep on the couch. Absolutely, she demands (and receives) belly rubs whenever she wants! She's a malamute!

It's comforting to hear about this Montana malamute's successful transition, in which she found a home and also found her calling.

## *The Excavator: Sherry Levinter's Construction Project*

One day while exploring outside in the cool morning, I found a dwelling beside the human cave. It had a roof and some straw in it. I saw possible applications for this structure after some modifications and remodeling.

I got rid of the straw. I knew earth would be much cooler. I got busy sweeping and when it was finished, sat back and thought about constructing a new cabana. I needed to expand the premises to a more comfortable size so I started to dig. Dirt flew all over the lawn. When Hu-mom came out, she saw I had worked hard and told me I had done a good job, but didn't I think it was finished? No way. I dug the hole deeper and deeper. Hu-mom thought it was too big and filled it. I was not deterred and started over again.

My demolition work went on for some days. In between important activities such as sleeping and eating, walking and snoozing, I worked. Hu-mom said I was going to go to China and didn't think I'd like the food there. I was going wherever my path led me.

I started another hole beside the first one so the whole site would let me to stretch out. I kept digging until I reached the house's foundation. Hu-mom poured concrete to protect the wall. That really upset me for a few days. I thought, "What good is digging if I can't do some damage while I'm at it?" After all, malamutes are the masters of their universe and teach their Hu-mons the rules of survival.

After a few days, I went back to the project and dug out my cabana again. Finally, it was built to my specifications and I lay down to relax. Oh, it was nice, soft and cool for my tired body.

