

AMAL TALES

May 2016



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: STRENGTH OF SPIRIT

I look at the dogs we have in rescue and I'm jealous, jealous of the innocence and their amazing strength of spirit and will to survive. I admire their ability to forgive and accept their ever changing world. We talk of creating a humane world, yet I wonder if we can ever live up to the standard they set for us.

One dog we fostered recently was Mallyduke. He was a sight when he came to us: skinny, heartworm positive, and shaved because no one ever took care of his fur. But somehow, you could always tease that big ole Mally smile out of him. Now, he's living in a new forever home with his rescue mal sister, still smiling, and so handsome he's downright pretty.

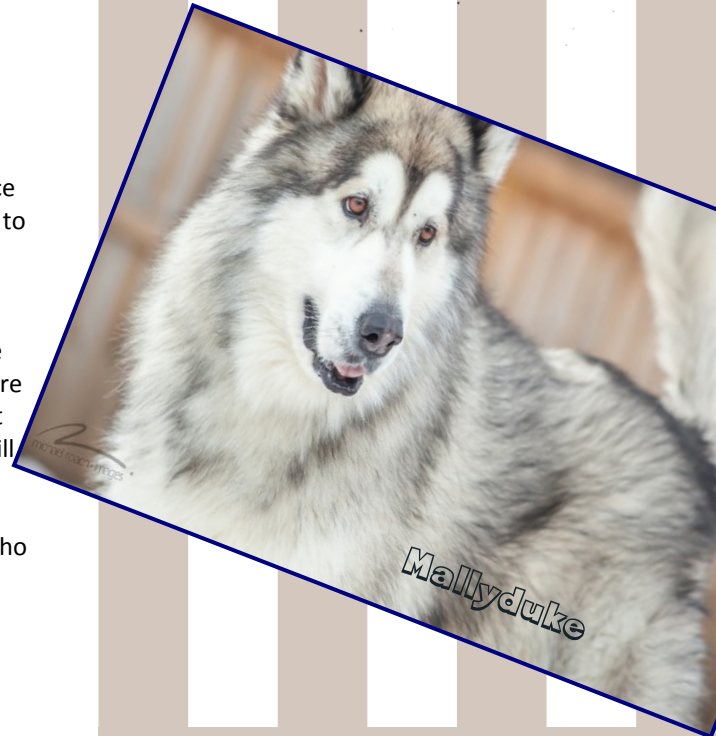
We find ourselves living in an interesting time. I was blessed with parents who gave their children a gift that will never be fully appreciated

- A belief in the good of humanity
- The ability to relish our world's incredible diversity
- The desire to strive to expose yourself to different things
- Most important, a propensity to embrace those differences with tolerance and acceptance.

Today we find the overt expression of intolerance for differences in others is everywhere. It breaks my heart. I'm not naïve enough to believe that intolerance itself is anything new. It has always been there. But it is the public display, sometimes proudly so, of these feelings. Perhaps it is the social-media-driven, reality TV, instant gratification culture we've created for ourselves. I don't know.

I do know that I want to always emulate my dogs. To live my life humanely, not just with animals, but with people. Our rescue dogs can teach us so much, but we have to listen. And we all know malamutes love to talk!

Michael Roach
President, AMAL



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Alaskan Malamute Assistance League

..... *We Pull For Them*

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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.

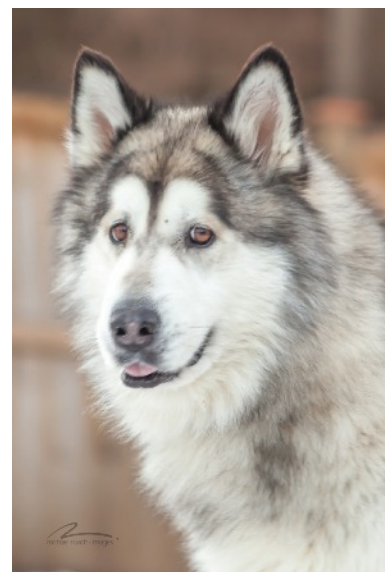


MAY COVER BOY: MALLYDUKE

It's always good to see a successful malamute makeover.

Although malamute rescue people see many of them that are as astonishing as Mallyduke's, it's still gratifying when the fuzzy, short-haired boy above becomes a majestic ambassador for the breed. He not only had his makeover, but also recovered from very high risk heart-worm disease. So he had a health makeover as well!

Now, that's a malamute!



TICK, TICK, TICK: TIME TO PREPARE

Christine Kubus

It's tick season! Warmer weather means you and your malamute may be outside and more active but, unfortunately, so will the ticks.

Ticks are parasites that feed by sucking the blood of a host, sometimes leaving behind infections that can cause serious illnesses and potentially death (see table below). These arachnoids are relatives to scorpions and spiders and are becoming a global phenomenon, effecting both humans and animals. Humans can also contract tick-borne illnesses, and babesiosis especially is on the rise in humans. While your malamute cannot give you a tick-borne illness, he or she can bring ticks into the home, where they may infect you directly. Many rodents carry these diseases and can be a potential threat.

Prevention is key! First and foremost, avoid highly infested places such as wooded areas, tall grass, and areas populated by deer and wildlife. Since this is not always possible, work with your veterinarian to pick a tick medication that is right for you. No tick medication is 100% effective, so inspecting your malamute for ticks is also essential. Because malamutes have thick coats, ticks often bite around the head, neck, snout and ears. Check these areas and the rest of the coat frequently. Even with proper precautions, malamutes may contract tick-borne illnesses. Have dogs tested annually if ticks have been a problem. Since symptoms vary and some pets may be symptomless, these tests allow for earlier detection and treatment.

Another way to prevent infection is to decrease your backyard tick population. Ticks like brushy, leafy areas that are damp and shaded. Clean up leaves around your yard, keep the grass short, and prune shrubs to increase sunlight. Remove Japanese barberry shrubs, an invasive species that harbors ticks and facilitates their reproduction. Replacing invasive species with indigenous greenery can decrease the tick population.

If your dog becomes infected, antibiotics are needed. These treatments are more effective the earlier they are started, so do not delay. Most often, doxycycline is used to treat tick-borne illnesses. It can be given with or without food (avoid giving with cheese) and is often administered for two to four weeks. This medication may cause diarrhea and vomiting in your pet. Also, the bitter taste can cause drooling or foaming at the mouth. If facial swelling or difficulty breathing should occur, call your vet immediately. (Note: babesiosis requires a different treatment: imidocarb dipropionate.) Some dogs are infected with Lyme disease and anaplasmosis at the same time. Fortunately, doxycycline treats both.

	Lyme disease	Anaplasmosis	Ehrlichiosis	Babesiosis
Type of tick	Deer tick (Black Legged tick)	Deer tick (Black Legged tick)	Brown Dog tick and the Lone Star tick	Brown Dog tick
Symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Fever •Loss of appetite •Vomiting unlikely •Stiffness •Swollen joints •Fatigue •Lameness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Fever •Loss of appetite •Vomiting •Neck pain and muscle stiffness •Lethargy (lack of energy) •Nose bleeds and bruising 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Fever •Loss of appetite •Vomiting unlikely •Muscle pain •Swollen limbs •Depression •Nose bleeds and bruising 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Fever less likely •Loss of appetite •Vomiting •Weakness •Lack of activity and lethargy •Pale appearance
Symptom onset after bite	A few months	A few days to a few weeks	A few months	Two weeks
Greatest geographic risk	Northeast, mid-Atlantic, north-central and California	Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, north-central and California	South west and gulf coast region	Throughout the USA

Red = hallmark symptom, Orange = rarely occurs

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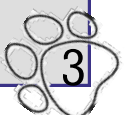
Submit articles, stories and/or letters to the editor to:

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ALASKAN MALAMUTE CLUB OF AMERICA NATIONAL SPECIALTY

This year's Regional and National Specialty Shows will 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 booth for fundraising. AMAL welcomes 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 activities and event photos on gift items, and stuffed animals to name a few.

Please ship your donations by October 20, 2016 to:
AMAL Booth - 2016
c/o Valhalla Alaskan Malamutes
15355 Buckland Ct.
Elbert, CO 80106

Thanks in advance for your support of rescue, and I hope to see you there!
Sharon Nichols
2016 Chairperson Rescue Showcase



DOUBLING DONATIONS!

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. Please feel free to direct questions to:
treasurer@malamuterescue.org.

SPECIAL DONATIONS



February 1, 2016 through April 30, 2016

In memory of beloved red boy "Cajun," whom we lost in January

– Ch. Snobuc's Reddy for TakeOff RN, by Maria & Rolfe Dinwoodie



HOWL IF YOU LIKE AMAL TALES

It's Mother's Day, a quiet and under-appreciated day in our household. Although I have a mother and am a mother, the fact that 50% of American babies are conceived by accident (yes, this is true) seems to subtract from the day's glory. Instead of a brunch I neither need nor want, I'm working on *AMAL Tales*.

Submissions were hard to come by for this issue, creating an empty page. The screen is reminiscent of the snowy fields malamutes long to traverse (blinding, empty white). Leo is outside in the damp morning air. He's humming. Leo is a malamute who loves to vocalize, and when bored, he emits a melodious, mindless droning. An ambulance approaches. Before I can hear it, he apparently does, and puts up the howl. Charlotte, resting under the grand piano, joins him and before long, the chorus is deafening. I hear my neighbor Jim (a human, not a dog) join in, and I know this howl will be a long one.

An idea! And I'm off into my happy place: the electronic research libraries. After an hour of trying various search terms, I have what I need to fill this page. It's the answer to the question, "Why do malamutes vocalize?"

Vocalization seems to have evolved from the dog's wolf ancestors, who needed a sophisticated communication system to maintain their elaborate pack social system. Breeding, hunting, and guarding territory requires cooperation. Wolves have cognitive empathy—they engage in conflict, reconcile, and understand when others in their pack do the same—and they follow each others' gazes as one form of communication. They also have "numerical competence" skills (they know which pile of food is bigger) and their vocalizations are not random, they are purposeful.

Although lucky malamutes live in ostensibly simpler domesticated bliss, they socialize with humans and other dogs, and researchers think this may amplify their desire to vocalize. Vocalization seems to increase with increasing socialization. Leo's humming is actually something called an *undulating whine* or *elongated whimper*, and it's usually a sign that the wolf or malamute (or other dog) wants social contact.

Howls are the most recognizable canine vocalization. Some breeds, like ours, will howl alone or in concert. Howls can be heard for long distances, and wolves sometimes use them as group-alert mechanisms. Howling tends to increase at dusk and dawn, and each wolf's or dog's howl is unique. Wolves will howl in response to other canines' howls, and will also answer humans, as do malamutes. Leo and Jim are mutual admiration howlers, for example. Sometimes, when a pack of wolves hears a howl, it becomes quiet to avoid contact. This is especially true when puppies are present.

Wolves' howl length is associated with body size, so trespassers may hear a howl and think, "Ooo, that's a big one!" and move away. Wolves' howls also become lower in tone as trespassers approach. And that group howl? It's designed to tell intruders, "We're here, and we're a pack." However, much like it's impossible to know how many people are singing in a chorus, it also makes it hard for trespassers to guess the pack's exact size.

Jeannette Wick



Malamutes' howls and vocalizations change with age, and they also change with illness. Malamutes with hereditary polyneuropathy develop a different, hoarser voice. Drugs change vocalization, too. Charlotte, for example, will simply not shut up when she wakes from anesthesia. She howls and yips in a high-pitched tone so loud, no one can hear anything; it lasts several hours.

Americans love pictures of a wolf or a malamute howling at the moon. Wolves and malamutes do not, however, howl at the moon. In other words, the moon doesn't cause the canine to howl. The canine superimposed on the moon causes the human to take or paint the picture.

Malamutes, by the way, respond to human gestures and cues. All dogs do. Dogs that retrieve will respond when a human pretends to toss a Frisbee or a ball. Malamutes—too dignified to chase and retrieve—will usually respond vocally when they see their humans reach for the can opener. They will also give cues, perhaps barking at a cabinet where the treats are kept or sitting by a leash.

Finally, malamutes can calculate and manipulate. If they know something is forbidden, they will wait until the human leaves the room before doing the forbidden thing—counter cruising, exploring a grocery bag full of food, or chewing a shoe.

Our next issue is in August. Please suggest articles, or I will be forced to write about the acoustic features of growling, and no one wants that.



PEANUT NOODLES WITH BROCCOLI

INGREDIENTS

- 1 pound rotini or shells
- 1 small head of broccoli
- 3 cloves garlic, chopped
- 1 large egg, room temperature
- ¾ cup peanut butter
- 1 cup warm water
- ¼ cup canola oil

DIRECTIONS

- Clean and cut the broccoli, and place it in a colander. Cook the shells until tender, and drain the boiling water over the broccoli (this blanches the broccoli). Rinse with cold water.
- Place garlic, egg with shell, peanut butter and water in blender and process. Gradually add the oil while the blender is running.
- Mix well and refrigerate.

Home feeding introduces variety into a dog's diet. This recipe is tasty enough that it can feed the family, too (but leave out the egg shell).

From *Throw Me a Bone* by Cooper Gillespie and Sally Sampson.

AMAL Membership Application/Renewal

July 2015 - June 2016

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. 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



CHRISTENSON AWARD NOMINATION: DUE VERY SOON!

The AMAL Board is accepting nominations for the prestigious Christenson Award, which will be awarded at the AMCA 2016 Nationals.

If you have a volunteer who has assisted your affiliate in some extraordinary ways, or a volunteer who has gone beyond the call of duty, please nominate him or her.

It takes just a few paragraphs! Describe what they've done to assist you and submit the nomination to the AMAL board secretary Mike Ulman at Windsurf48@comcast.net as soon as possible so the board has ample opportunity to review the nominations.

This example, written by Lynne Anderson, will help guide you:

"The Christenson Award was established by Drs. Norm and Diane Pomerance in memory of Chris Christenson, husband to Betty Christenson, who started rescuing in North Texas and then broadened her scope. All the while Chris was at her side. He was the quiet presence, walking dogs, fixing coffee when there was a meeting, providing the calm in the storm that was Betty. Chris died of a heart attack while he and Betty were exercising dogs. Betty said, "He never let go of the leash." That was Chris - steady, strong, modest, tireless, kind. The award is presented at the banquet that concludes the Alaskan Malamute Club of America National Specialty. The aim of this award is to recognize those who always work, but are seldom in the limelight. If one heads a rescue, there are other recognitions for outstanding service, but the Christenson Award is for all of you out there who transport, home check, foster, phone, groom, manage websites, and, in general, quietly serve your affiliate rescue. Without our unsung heroes, we could not save the dogs who mean so much to all of us."

Michael Roach
President, Alaska Malamute Assistance League

STARSKY AND HUTCH: THE BLIND LEADING THE BLIND

Jackie Roach

So much for a quiet and relaxing Memorial Day weekend. The e-mail begged for action: "Blind Malamutes in Arkansas Shelter" read the subject line.

Two six-month-old blind Alaskan malamutes had been surrendered to a shelter. Shelter staff was looking for someone with malamute experience, and experience with blind dogs. Times two. Taysia Blue Rescue was happy to take these boys. We arranged transport and within a week, two slightly chubby, very clumsy, 70 pound Malamute puppies bounded into my house.

We named them Starsky and Hutch. We were told they were very bonded. Starsky was Hutch's guide dog, but considering Starsky was a blind puppy, he wasn't all that helpful! Starsky was fearless. He would fall down, bump in to walls, shake it off, and go at it again. Hutch seemed completely incapable of doing anything without Starsky. If he couldn't sense Starsky at his side, he would belly flop to the ground and plant himself there until Starsky found his way back to him. These boys weren't so much bonded as they were co-dependent and not in a healthy way.

We believed that Hutch would be unable to progress as long as he relied on Starsky for his courage. We made the decision to send them to separate foster homes as a trial.

At a weekend adoption event, Starsky met a man who volunteered for the Nebraska Humane Society. David, sight-impaired himself, was instantly drawn to Starsky. In fact, he shed some tears when he had to leave him for the day. It wasn't long before David agreed to foster Starsky. And it wasn't too much longer until David adopted him! Together, they now volunteer at the shelter working shifts at the retail store or stuffing Kongs for shelter dogs. Starsky and David also educate kids about living with disabilities.

With Starsky gone, Hutch soon learned to accept other dogs' friendship, and his confidence soared! He built his own GPS map of his foster's house and yard, complete with multiple level decks, retaining walls and stairs. He blossomed and found his courage. We received an adoption application for Hutch from a young lady in Dallas who worked in a condo complex. My initial reaction was, "You have to be kidding...no fence, no yard, no resident 'guide dog,' and too far away." But after talking with her, we believed that it might be a match made in heaven. An onsite dog park and all sorts of luxury amenities awaited Hutch.

Natalie drove from Dallas to Omaha one fall morning to meet her new soul mate and took him home. She says it best in her own words:

"There has been a lot of change in my life this year. The best day was September 1, 2015. It was the first time I hugged my sweet boy Hutch. That is a day I will never forget. I had lost a good friend in July. Smeagle lived for 13 awesome years before he went blind and cancer took his life. After some time I began the search for my new best friend. That is when I came across Taysia Blue Rescue. It was hard to decide which pup I thought needed me as much as I needed him. I read about Hutch and his brother and knew right then that Hutch was going to be my boy. Hutch has the most unique personality. I love when he talks to me. Every day I learn something new about him and why I love him so much. I am so proud of the confidence he has built. The trust we have in one another is a bond to never be broken."



AND AN ADDENDUM TO TICK, TICK, TICK: ICK, ICK, ICK

Breaking news! As we prepared to print, the University of Connecticut (UConn) published an alert about a new tick-borne disease: *Borrelia miyamotoi*. This emerging disease is caused by an organism that is similar to, but different than the one that causes Lyme disease. The first human case in the United States was diagnosed in 2013. Some people are symptomless, while others have mild to severe symptoms. Unlike Lyme disease, *Borrelia miyamotoi* infections usually cause no rash. Its other symptoms are similar to anaplasmosis: fever, severe headache, arthralgia (achy joints), chills, fatigue, low blood platelets, and low white blood cell count. Almost no information is available about this infection in dogs, but this will be something to watch.

Borrelia miyamotoi is transmitted by deer ticks. UConn's alert tells people to be sure they know how to differentiate between the deer and the dog tick. The dog tick has white streaks near the head (an area called the scutum), whereas deer ticks are mainly brown. Since a tick's size changes as it feeds, looking at its coloring is a better way to determine its type.

UConn's alert also indicates, "Due to the tricky nature of diagnosing tick-borne illness, a good strategy is to test the tick itself. UConn has a tick-testing service through the Connecticut Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Lab at the Storrs campus. They can identify the tick and test for a variety of tick-borne diseases common to this area to help direct health care decisions." A simple web search shows that most states have tick-testing services. Don't toss ticks! Put them in a plastic bag and bring them with you to the doctor or vet.

