

AMAL TALES

NOVEMBER 2015

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE!

The Alaskan Malamute Assistance League was all over the country in the last few months, and it was truly special because we were able to do three things: help in a big way, meet in person, and award deserving volunteers!

- AMAL and its members answered the call for help when officials in Durham, NC seized 31 malamutes. You'll see from the donations page that many individuals opened their hearts (and their wallets) to help these dogs. Thank you.
- Many AMAL members shook paws at the Alaskan Malamute Club of America (AMCA) National Specialty in Massachusetts in November. Some of us met for the first time, and all of us had a good time. We've prepared an exceptional spread on pages 4 and 5 of this issue of AMAL Tales. My hope is that after seeing it, you'll decide to mush your way to the next AMCA National Specialty show in Colorado Springs, CO in 2016.
- AMAL awarded its annual Christenson Awards to three deserving volunteers. It's a pleasure to recognize Danya Sterner, Stephanie Konz and Lois McKennett with this medal.

And that's the news from AMAL's leadership. We wish you a howling, happy, humdinger of a 2015 holiday season. Cheers to all of you for your support, and double-cheers to a successful 2016!

Michael Roach
President, AMAL



Alaskan Malamute Assistance League

..... *We Pull For Them*



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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.



DOUBLE YOUR DONATION!

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. If any questions, please feel free to direct them to: treasurer@malamuterescue.org.



NOVEMBER COVER GIRL: GYPSY PEANUT

Vivian Griet adopted our cover girl, Gypsy Peanut or GP, from CHAAMP in March, 2015. Her name, Gypsy, reflects her voyage from the Montana seizure to Denver, then to CHAAMP in Virginia, and finally to Viv in Abington, PA. And Peanut? She weighs just 65 lbs; hence Gypsy Peanut!

In May, GP fell ill with that constellation of malamute warning signs: lack of interest in food or water, accidents in the house, and malaise. The emergency veterinarian diagnosed immune-mediated thrombocytopenia, an autoimmune condition that prevents blood from clotting. Caught just in time, her condition is manageable with prednisone, azathioprine, melatonin and probiotic. She requires monthly blood work to watch her platelet level and liver, pancreas and kidneys. Just recently, the vet gave the OK for GP to be around other dogs. She's running and playing carelessly like a pup again!

GP remains a gypsy. She has been to the Harrisburg dog show; Ocean City MD; Seneca Lake, NY for the Wine Country Circuit dog show and wine tasting; and the AMAL rescue parade in Sturbridge, MA. Most important, she helped Viv heal from the devastating loss of her previous malamute, Stoli. GP's courage, her heart, her will to live, and her love of life are truly inspirational. She is a survivor.



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HYPOTHYROIDISM IN MALAMUTES

Christine Kubus

Nearly 20% of Alaskan Malamutes have abnormal thyroid levels. The reason malamutes are at a greater risk for this condition than other breeds is largely unknown.

Hypothyroidism is caused by a decreased production of thyroid hormone or damage to the thyroid gland itself. An autoimmune disease is to blame for roughly 80% of hypothyroid cases, and it is often thought to be hereditary. The thyroid is responsible for metabolic rate, growth and impacts all organs in the body.



An underactive thyroid presents in many ways, typically between the second and fifth year of life. In malamutes, the most notable sign is a change in coat (see picture to the left). Dry, coarse or greasy fur with yellow colored dandruff could be a sign of hypothyroidism. Lower metabolic rate is also a complication, presenting as weight gain despite a consistent diet. Another presentation could be a decrease in mental awareness and physical activity with a generally sluggish demeanor. Discharge from the eyes and whitish or pale colored gums are also worth mentioning to the vet.

Hypothyroidism can lead to a few complications that are not well known and often over looked. Behavioral disorders such as uncharacteristic aggression (rage) and severe phobias can be a sign of low thyroid hormone levels.

Any of these symptoms may indicate hypothyroidism but can also be complications of other medical conditions. A blood test and full thyroid panel should be obtained to confirm the diagnosis of hypothyroidism.

Thankfully, hypothyroidism is easy and inexpensive to treat. Hormone replacement is most often prescribed. Levothyroxine (sometimes called by its brand name Soloxine) only costs about \$5-\$10 a month and is dosed specifically for the dog's weight and thyroid levels. Levothyroxine is also used in humans however, you cannot give dogs the human form because dogs require a dose 10x stronger than that of a human. It is dosed twice daily and should be given on an empty stomach (30 minutes before meals). Do not wrap the tablet in cheese as calcium causes a decrease in absorption—try peanut butter instead.

Once started on levothyroxine, malamutes must continue taking it even once symptoms improve. It may take several weeks to see improvement and intermittent blood work is recommended. Levothyroxine is well tolerated with very few cases of allergic reactions reported.



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2015 Rescue Showcase Stars

THE AMCA NATIONAL SPECIALTY SHOW: AMAL SHINES

This year's Alaskan Malamute Club of America (AMCA) National Specialty show was held at the Sturbridge, MA, Host Hotel and Conference Center, from November 8 – 14. Show chairperson Ruth Levesque did a terrific job—everything ran smoothly and the location was lovely.

AMAL participated in its typical ways: the week-long booth sales and auction items raised funds for rescue, and sponsored the Rescue Showcase (described below). A team effort accomplished our goals.

Alaskan Malamute Rescue of New England

Thanks go to AMRONE's Joanne Duval for her coordination efforts, Jane Palinkas for making such great welcome bags for showcase participants, and Stephanie Bayliss for her help during and after the event. Kathy and Jerry Ferragamo provided key assistance in setting up the booth and were always available to help on an as-needed basis. Several AMRONE volunteers also helped with the booth sales and related activities during the week: Lauren, Carl, Carol and Eric.

AMAL BOOTH and AUCTION ITEMS

AMAL sold items from Sunday through Saturday during the show. We received many material donations—the regional folks were especially very generous—and had new items to present almost every day. Ruth Levesque provided us with a terrific location (right between the ring and the grooming area) so traffic was constant.

Tanja Gube helped out at the booth and designed nametags that were very helpful during the show week and for parade participants. Our biggest ticket auction item was a practically new dog sled and cushion generously donated by the McKinneys. Thanks to Vicki McKinney for collecting and transporting donation deliveries, to Tex Peel for holding and transporting AMAL boxes in his big truck, and to all the affiliates who provided item donations to AMAL to make it a successful fundraiser!



RESCUE SHOWCASE

AMAL had 11 participants, with one shy dog who couldn't attend, and one dog, Takani, in memorial for the Rescue Showcase. The regional affiliates, AMRONE and CHAAMP, were well represented with participants pretty evenly split between the two. If you haven't seen Paul Ganci's video of the event, you can find it here: <https://youtu.be/SbSO6XmmUaI>.

Michael Roach prepared signs that directed people to the booth, and made a wonderful welcome banner showcasing the parade participants' dogs. AMAL provided a light lunch as a rendez-vous point for arriving participants. AMRONE volunteers decorated the room and distributed welcome bags that participants appreciated.

Between lunch and the parade rehearsal, showcase participants wandered around the dog show. Some had never attended a national specialty show before, and admired the show dogs and the way their handlers controlled them! Several volunteers offered light touch-up grooming so the rescue dogs looked their best in the parade.

We did a quick rehearsal, then went right into the Rescue showcase. The video shows our preparation paid off. All who attended enjoyed the parade and were moved by the dogs' stories. Steve Anderson and Mike Roach presented the awards to the handlers and hugged the dogs (or were hugged by some of the dogs) while Dennis Collins read brief biographies and tributes describing the dogs' progress, often from dire situations to beloved pets.

Sharon Huston, once again, outdid herself. She designed and ordered beautiful show items, ribbons, and memory books during a difficult personal time. We tried to keep the "celebrating our past" theme from the dog show, so a section covered some past events of the breed, dogs in the three major blood lines, and a timeline of historic events. The participants really appreciated them. Karen Jordan assisted Sharon Huston, and Susan Conant provided final editing.

Ruth Levesque arranged to have the show photographer provide a large picture of each dog and handler at the official award location directly after the parade. AMCA also kindly provided a dog leash for each dog. A light reception following the photo shootings allowed the participants to unwind and relax, while mixing with AMAL volunteers.



By Sharon Nichols



Steele



Mike Roach awards Steele



B Bear with owner, Laurel Flax

BIRTHDAY CUPCAKES FOR DOGS

INGREDIENTS

- 1 1/2 cups whole wheat flour
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1/2 cup old fashioned oats
- 1 cup carrot, finely grated
- 1/2 cup blackstrap molasses
- 1/2 cup water
- 1 egg
- 1 1/2 tablespoons vegetable oil

DIRECTIONS

- Preheat oven to 350° Fahrenheit
- Combine dry ingredients and wet ingredients separately.
- Mix well.
- Pour into cupcake tins, bake for 20 minutes.

These cupcakes are high in vitamin A and potassium, making them a healthy treat dogs love.

They have 122 calories each.

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



We couldn't resist showing you **Moonsong Mal's** latest fundraising endeavor: Jazzies! Want one? They come in different sizes and colors.

Find ordering directions at <http://tinyurl.com/nlbboya>.

CHRISTENSON AWARDS: TIRELESS TRIO

The Alaska Malamute Assistance League is proud to announce the recipients of the 2015 Christenson Award!

Dayna Sterner | Washington Alaskan Malamute Adoption League

Stephanie Konz | Taysia Blue Rescue

Lois McKennett | Chesapeake Area Alaskan Malamute Protection

The Christenson Award recognizes those people who are always there, working and volunteering beyond the call of duty, yet seldom in the limelight. Please join AMAL in recognizing these incredible malamute lovers for their tireless service and support!

DANYA STERNER



The best thing about Danya is she never lets the WAMAL dogs down! A longtime volunteer walker, she always appears to take the kenneled dogs walking, no matter the weather. She does introductions with new families, emails updates, and praises other volunteers and board members. Danya's commute to the kennel is an hour or more each way in our Seattle traffic, and she shows up several times a week.

Even though Danya is very dedicated to WAMAL and the dogs, she is not one to blow her own horn or to expect anyone to thank her for her work. In fact she is downright humble when it comes to praise or commendation, even though she is better equipped than most volunteers to handle any malamute in her care.

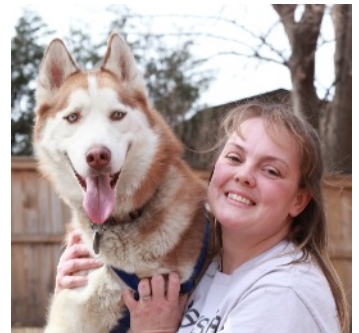
Danya is the kind of charity volunteer everyone dreams of finding. She is well liked by and gets along with everyone, and never does anything that isn't in the best interest of the malamutes in WAMAL's care. Danya gives her all for the malamutes and has been a very bright light in their transition from

shelter or former owner to a new and happy life.

STEPHANIE KONZ

Without fail, Steph has had a regular rotation of foster dogs in her home for the last four years. Her loyalty to Taysia Blue and our mission has never wavered.

Steph has been a critical partner in Taysia Blue's growth. Integral to our strategic planning initiatives, she has assumed a leadership role on several action teams including training fosters, adoption counselors and other key volunteers. She is constantly thinking of ways to be more efficient and more productive. She is willing to write policy, challenge the status-quo, find foster homes when we think there are no more, and scoop poop. Bottom line, she will do whatever is needed to support our mission. And she does with a smile and positive attitude.



Steph even scheduled her husband's kidney transplant surgery around Taysia Blue's annual fundraising event so she would be sure to give 100% to the rescue during this critical time, then give 100% to her husband at his critical time.

LOIS MCKENNETT



"Yes! I can do that!" This is always the reply from Lois when asked to help with the CHAAMP malamutes. In fact, we don't have to ask—she volunteers. Help transport? Sure, I can do that. Help with fundraisers? Yes, I can do that. Foster a special needs dog? Sure, I can do that.

CHAAMP's malamutes benefit from Lois's endless energy and enthusiasm. She organizes and participates in countless fundraisers throughout the year. While working a full time job and raising a young son, Lois is constantly brainstorming new, and productive, ideas for CHAAMP's malamutes. She has fostered an ailing senior for us, providing Whisper with the love and attention she requires.

CHAAMP is very fortunate, and proud, to have Lois be a part of our rescue team. She never hesitates taking on any challenge or difficult task and completes them with a smile.





Special Donations

August 1, 2015 through November 30, 2015

In memory of CH Vykon's Chasing the Wind – 'CHASE', by Karen Berry

In memory of Cinder, the beloved companion of Bob Sutherland and Nicole McCullough, by Susan Conant

In memory of Tuaq, by Al & Maryu Jane Holabach

In honor of Thunder, by Jerome & Tanja Koller

In honor of Auaround Alaska Malamutes' Northpaws Arrakkas of Winterstarz and Winterstarz Western Star, by Dr. Katherina Burger and Dr. Timothy Burger

For the Durham Mals, in Memory of Bob Nicholson, by Linda Rosten

For Nicole & Jason, in memory of Kenai- Love, Drew, Trisha & Rocky

For the Durham Mals:

- Karyn Colman
- Terry Toussant
- Jennifer Remazki
- Barbara Taylor
- Kelly Mahoney
- Ellen Bollman
- AMCA
- Sharon Flemming
- Lance McMillan and Sheri Ahlheim
- Diane McComb
- Sue & Kevin Jackson
- Mia Kleve
- Warren Becker
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- Sheryl Franklin of Franklin Communications
- Heather Buckingham