

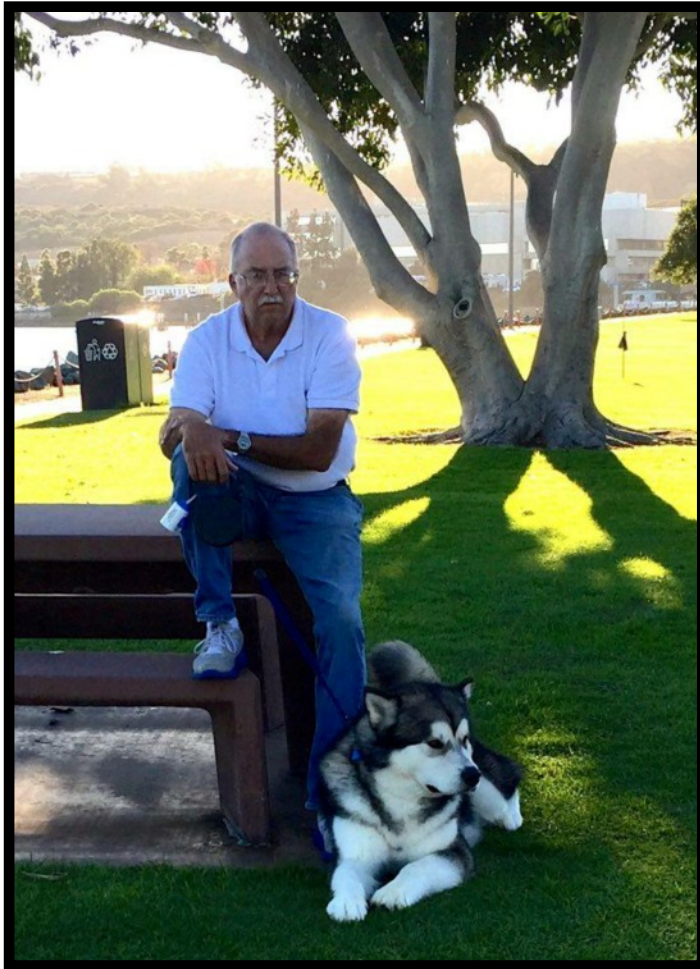
# AMAL TALES

MAY 2017

## SINCERE CONDOLENCES

### A Sad Farewell

Our hearts go out to our AMAL President, Tina Dunn, who unexpectedly lost her husband on Easter Sunday.



Tina and Tom were together for more than 45 years. Tom, pictured above, was very supportive of Tina and her love of malamutes. Our thoughts and prayers are with Tina at this time of sorrow.



Grace  
WAMAL's May calendar Girl!

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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](mailto:treasurer@malamuterescue.org)  
or go to  
<http://www.malamuterescue.org/about/donations.html>



## Cover Girl: Grace's Big Adventure!

Foster girl, Gracie, recently went camping at Jay Cooke State Park in Minnesota with foster family Erin, Dan and their mal, Raleigh. Grace loves to be outside taking in all the new sights and smells (mostly the smells). She guarded their camp vigilantly against an imminent chipmunk uprising. She also added a few new holes for the insurgents to check out upon the family's departure. Oops!

Jay Cooke State Park surprised her with something she'd never seen before: a huge suspension bridge. It swings very high over the St. Louis River rapids, and hikers must cross it to access the hiking trails. The poor girl FROZE halfway across, and it took serious coaxing to get her moving again. A line of people waited while they occupied the entire bridge, crossing in baby steps. Raleigh, a bridge veteran, was unimpressed.

Once across, the effort was worthwhile with miles and miles of trails to tire an energetic dog.

The next day, the group ferried across Lake Superior to Madeline Island for more exploring and adventure. Grace was a big fan of the ferry ship's port holes, and loved sticking her head through to watch the waves. She was very polite to everyone who wanted to pet her on the ferry.

Grace wrapped up the weekend by doing what malamutes do best: stealing a cheddar brat off the picnic table... Shame on those forgetful humans! When will they ever learn?!?

Someday, Grace hopes to find her very own special family to take her on all kinds of exciting adventures!



**Alaskan Malamute Assistance League**

..... *We Pull For Them*



## Persistence Pays: Polyneuropathy Pup with Pep!

*Judith Silver*

In late 2012, my 5 year old malamute Leo looked tired. He was subsequently diagnosed with polyneuropathy, a disease that causes nerve and muscle cells to disintegrate. The muscle tissue around his eyes was vanishing and they were sinking. My vet was aware that a DNA marker and cheek swab test were available, but instead performed an unnecessary biopsy, cut Leo's thigh muscle, and maimed his leg. Leo was left screaming in pain, with an incurable disease, and abandoned by the vet. I couldn't live with this result.

I found a new vet who prescribed acupuncture and weekly B-12 shots; it stopped Leo's screaming. I read National Institute of Health studies and started him on L-carnitine, coenzyme Q10, lutein, alpha lipoic acid and ester C, which also helped. Next, I took Leo to specialists at the University of Florida (UF) to examine his leg. Since muscle (not nerve) was cut, the neurologist told me repair was impossible and polyneuropathy is incurable.

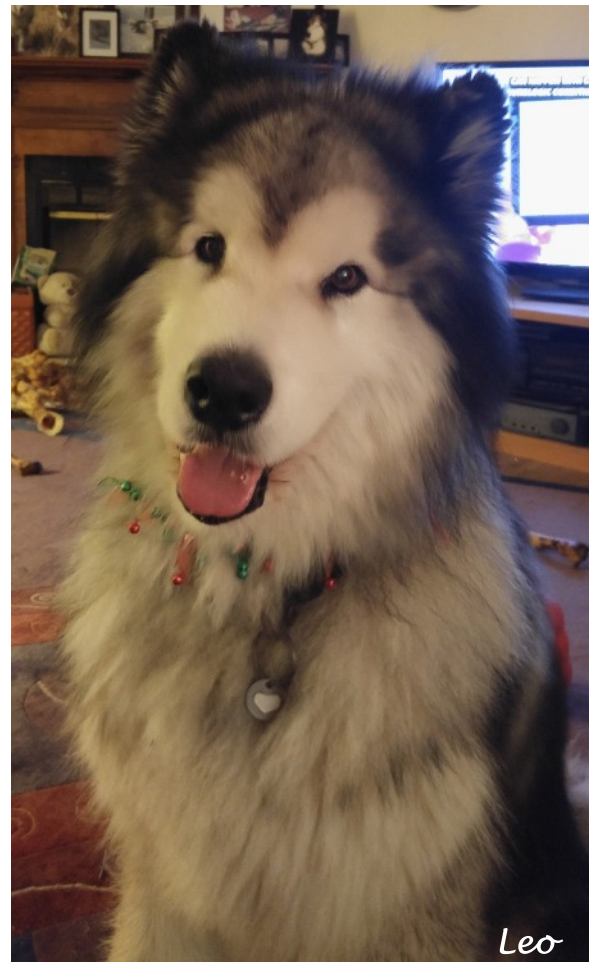
*A 2017 Study of Alaskan malamutes diagnosed with polyneuropathy has traced all known cases in the U.S. To one common ancestor.*

Since acupuncture had helped, I took Leo to see UF's Eastern medicine professor and specialist, Dr. Xie, who began treatments on Leo's leg and body for the disease. Eastern medicine eschews the concept of "incurable"; it treats both body and spirit. I read a book on the topic to understand the treatments and facilitate conversation with Dr. Xie. After commuting monthly for six months, I relocated north and closer to the University. Leo has received treatments every two to six weeks since. And, the school's nutritionist reminded me to feed Leo more protein; it promotes muscle cells that don't have to be converted from fat.

Miraculously, I also found a giant forest where I can walk Leo off leash. He runs and swims, keeping both our spirits up and his muscles in prime shape. The acupuncture treatments, hyperbaric chamber treatments, and Chinese herbs prescribed from 2013 through 2015 had no side effects, and eventually relieved his limp and the pain. I strongly encourage integrative medicine for dogs with any disease requiring serious surgery or treatment. In addition to standard questions, the physician will ask if the dog is happy, going outside, eager for his walk, how his tongue looks, if he is depressed, sleeping well, and so on.

Towards the middle of 2015, stem cell treatments became available for Leo. His Embrace and Petplan insurances cover the treatments; I pay about \$900 a year and they pay about \$15,000. As a result, Leo receives intravenous stem cells monthly and in the spot where he was maimed. The cells have repaired and stabilized the disease.

Dogs belonging to Facebook friends on the malamutes polyneuropathy group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/amwpm/>) often pass quickly; mine has actually improved. This year, Leo turned 10 on St. Patty's day and remains well. He may live a normal life span. I couldn't be more grateful to everyone who helped. If you have questions, contact me at [judith@coollawyer.com](mailto:judith@coollawyer.com).



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

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# COMBATING CONSTANT SHEDDING: VACUUMS

Sophia Delmar

Keeping up with shedding is a task for most dog owners. For Alaskan malamute lovers, a good vacuum and good technique is an absolute necessity.

AMAL Tales editor Jeannette Wick, says “If you have Alaskan malamutes, you have no business owning just one vacuum cleaner.” Wick recommends owning at least two vacuums—a canister and something with a power head—to cover carpeting, wood floors, stairs, and tight spaces.

Wick says she loves her upright Dyson. She says “The suction is so strong that even when you move rugs that have been in place for months, you don’t find dust, dirt, or sand underneath.” She says her Dyson is bagless, which is the real advantage. However, she recommends emptying the vacuum outside. Wick cites two disadvantages (and the reason why she probably is a two-vacuum advocate). Dysons have a small filter that has to be removed from under the dust collection tank and washed periodically, and her model of the Dyson is a bit heavy and unsuitable for stairs, so she uses a canister vacuum on stairs instead.

Vicky Meluso from IAMRA says the half dozen or so malamutes that roam her home produce a never-ending supply of hair. In her quest for new approaches, she started using a vacuum called EyeVac. According to the company website, EyeVac is a 12 by 7 by 18 inch touchless vacuum that uses sensors and infrared technology. It senses debris such as dog hair in its proximity. Then, it vacuums it up. Meluso says the EyeVac can be plugged in a corner, so it’s unobtrusive.

Meluso says one thing that attracted her to the EyeVac was not having to buy bags or filters. Meluso reports that unlike many other vacuums, the EyeVac comes with an ample reservoir and a washable filter. Meluso also says she likes the EyeVac because it’s quiet. She compares the EyeVac’s noise level to that of a hair dryer on low or medium, and says that the noise last only seconds. Meluso indicates the noise doesn’t seem to bother the dogs at all. Meluso says “If you have a lot of dog hair, and do a lot of sweeping on hard surfaced floors, this gadget may be a help!”



Wick says she also has a CentraLux central vacuum system installed in the walls. According to the company website, central vacuums can be installed in a basement or garage, with inlets for the vacuum hose installed in various rooms.

Wick says, “I only have to move hoses and heads around and plug them into outlets in various rooms.” She says “The suction is extremely strong and the 30-gallon dust collection canister is in the cellar.” Wick, who has two malamutes, empties the canister once a month or so.



*Sweep a day's accumulation to the wall*

*Look familiar?*

*Kick the switch*

*All gone*

Wick cites the Butler’s kick, pictured above, as the system’s best feature. She says “You can sweep your wood floors and position all the dust in front of the slit, and then kick a switch and all the dust is sucked into the wall and disappears into the cellar.” This is similar to the EyeVac, but built-in and manually operated.

Wick says, “The central vacuum system’s hoses are extremely long.” The positive: the hoses reach multiple rooms without changing hose outlets. The negative: maneuvering the hoses up and down steep stairs can be treacherous.



Let's learn a little bit from WAMAL's Rickie Anderson. Rickie has managed WAMAL's Facebook page since November 2016. She says that this new volunteer activity has her neurons firing as she learns something new every day.

Rickie became involved with WAMAL in 2007 when she adopted Gypsy, a shy malamute mix. When Gypsy passed away in 2015, the hole in Rickie's heart was so large that she swore she would never adopt another dog. Yet in 2016, Rickie adopted Stormy, a lovely malamute who sadly returned to WAMAL when she squabbled incessantly with Rickie's other dog, Tobey. Rickie, sad and troubled by Stormy's situation, asked WAMAL if she could volunteer, mainly to bring attention to Stormy and help her find a home.

As a dog walker, Rickie met eight kenneled malamutes and saw tremendous need. She also knew her extensive experience as a fundraiser and promoter for other nonprofit organizations (schools, artists, Goodwill Games) could help WAMAL. Rickie likens her initial efforts at WAMAL to her missionary work in Africa and South America. She had to listen and observe WAMAL's customs. She saw that most of WAMAL's volunteers contributed large numbers of hours pulling for homeless Alaskan malamutes in dedicated roles. With time, Rickie saw an opportunity. She began pulling for homeless dogs in her own dedicated role: managing WAMAL's Facebook page.

On Facebook, Rickie treasures instantaneous communication and dialogue with malamute admirers. She indicates that authenticity establishes personal connections and builds relationships between people, groups, and malamutes. People start to invest emotionally in specific dogs. She uses several approaches. In her *Have a Heart* features, she depicts foster families and adoptable dogs' lovable qualities. Her *Happy Tails* relate adopted dogs' success stories.

Rickie avoids negative postings. She shows beautiful malamutes, highlights successful adoptions, and writes eloquent tributes for dogs who die. Yet, every once in a while she has to employ tear jerking tactics for a special needs dog. That was the case with Glacier, whose aggressive nature dictated placement in an "only dog" home. Posting a picture of Glacier kenneled and unhappy prompted a couple to come forward and provide a good home.

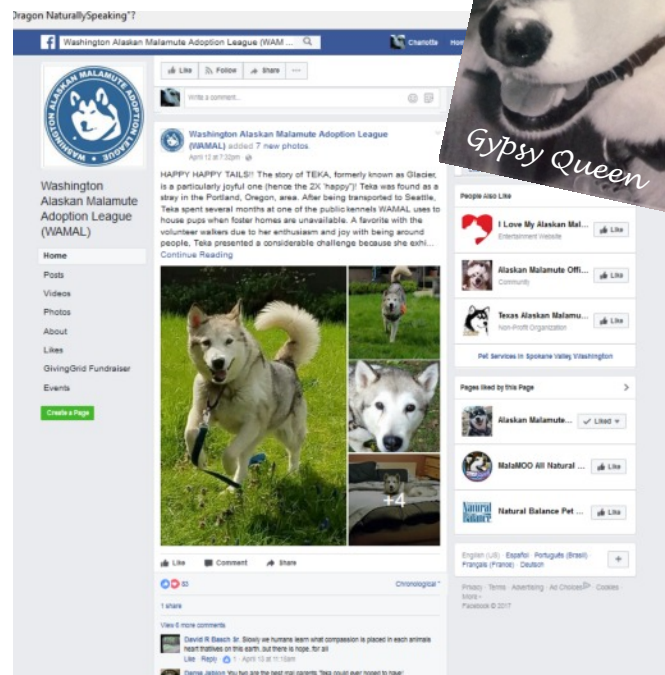
Rickie says people love humor. She was surprised and delighted when 62,000 people "liked" a funny comic book-type post. She also notes the fine line between establishing relationships and fundraising. The lion's share of her posts are relationship building, with the occasional (and successful) fundraising post. And, she says, "Initially I didn't like writing, but now I do, and what I realize is it takes ENERGY!" Sylvia Bailey, WAMAL's leader, reports, "Since Rickie took over the WAMAL Facebook page in November 2016, our page Facebook community has grown from around 1800 to 2808." Rickie didn't track numbers when she started, but is more aware of numbers today.

When asked to describe her biggest disappointment, Rickie doesn't hesitate to say that it's the shortage of time. Perhaps part of her time shortage has to do with Kitana—a malamute puppy she and her husband adopted six months ago. Kitana has evolved from a quivering furball who hid under a living room table for three weeks to a social butterfly. Rickie doesn't only pull for Alaskan malamutes—she leads by example.

## Mal Pal Spotlight: Rickie Anderson



*Kitana, Rickie, and Tobey*



*Gypsy Queen*

Find WAMAL at  
<https://www.facebook.com/Washington-Alaskan-Malamute-Adoption-League-WAMAL-331141380254975/>



## TUNA DOG TREATS

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 ½ cups oatmeal
- 1 5-ounce can tuna
- 1 egg

Process the oatmeal in a food processor until it looks like flour. Add the tuna and egg, and pulse until it's smooth.

### DIRECTIONS

- Preheat oven to 350°
- Roll on a floured surface to a thickness of ½ inch and cut with cookie cutters or in squares.
- Bake for 15 minutes, then flip and bake another 10 to 15 minutes.

Tuna contains omega-3 fatty acids, which promote heart health.

Our field testers prefer these when they are made with tuna in oil.

### AMAL Membership Application/Renewal

July 2017 - June 2018

Go to <http://tinyurl.com/hmi3tef> 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  
P.O. Box 7161  
Golden, CO 80403



### ROVING REPORTER DELIVERS NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

Roving reporter Ian Rowe sends news for this quarter's newsletter from our nation's capital. Ian, a scientist by trade, always looks for the whole story.

In sad news, we find that the US Department of Agriculture has removed information about inspections of laboratories, zoos, dog breeders, and other animal-related facilities from its website. The USDA's formal statement indicated their decision was based on a comprehensive review that took an entire year to complete. They cite privacy laws and court rulings as the basis for their action. The biggest impact in the canine adoption circuit is that seven states require pet stores to obtain puppies only from breeders with unblemished USDA inspection reports. Stores will now have difficulty meeting that requirement. That's a double-edged sword.

USDA originally began posting these reports pursuant to a 2009 legal settlement between the agency and the Humane Society of the United States. Now, individuals and organizations that want information must file a Freedom of Information Act to request information. FOIA requests are notoriously time-consuming.

In happy news, the US Interior Department hosted its first "Doggy Day" ever on May 5, 2017. Nonpartisan in nature, employees were allowed to bring dogs of any breed, size, or political affiliation. Dogs, which had to be vaccinated, well behaved, and housebroken, all seem to be "working breeds," as they manned desks and emulated their owners at meetings (which means yes, some were sleeping and others were not paying attention). Secretary Ryan Zinke (R, Montana) took advantage of the photo op, and shook paws with willing canines in his office. He also brought his own Havanese, Ragnar.

As of 2015, only 8% of American workplaces allowed employees to bring dogs to work. Amazon is a leader in this area, and approximately 2,000 dogs go to work with Amazon employees regularly. All reception desks have doggie treats and all of its 30 buildings have pet exercise areas.



## AMCA's 2017 Alaskan Malamute National Specialty



This year's 2017 Alaskan Malamute National Specialty Show, scheduled for October 22–28, is hosted by the Great Lakes Region and will be held at Sawmill Creek Resort, in Huron, Ohio. The Show Chair is Cindy Benson and Patty Ann Peel is the Assistant Chair. Hotel reservations are first come, first served so be sure to make your plans early!

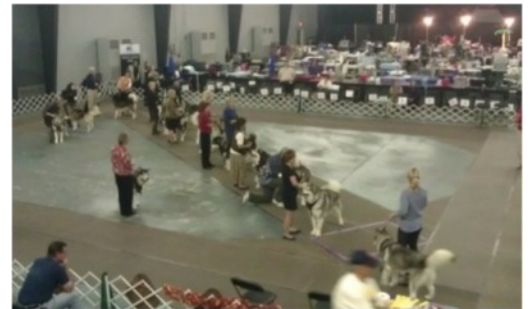
AMAL will host the Rescue Showcase of representative regional adopters who work so hard to provide these dogs loving homes and families, help them gain confidence and security, and provide them with regular exercise. They have given the dogs “forever homes”!

Please begin thinking of those unique Alaskan and malamute-related items that will sell well at the AMAL Booth and at the AMCA Auction. Past years' top selling items have been long sleeved T-shirts, sweatshirts, sledding or weight pull equipment, historical breed activity and event memorabilia, mal images on gift items, unique functional items with malamute decoration, and stuffed animals (dark eyes preferred!).

Find more information at <http://www.alaskanmalamutenationals.com/>.

Hope to see you at the show!  
Sharon Nichols, for AMAL

Ship Donations  
starting September 15, 2017:  
AMAL  
c/o Lori Conley  
4182 West US Highway 6  
Helena, Ohio 43435



### *Special Donations*

*Feb. 1 through April 30, 2017*

In Memory of Hunter, by Dian McComb  
In Honor of her beautiful sable girl: Ruby,  
by Ann Mayberry-Welch

## DOUBLE YOUR DONATION!



Most Employee Donation Matching programs will match your donation to AMAL! Ask your Human Resources Department about your company's procedure. Questions? Please feel free to direct them to [treasurer@malamuterescue.org](mailto:treasurer@malamuterescue.org).



## Picasso Paws, Monet Malamutes.

Painting with a Twist® sponsors monthly fund raising events called "Painting with a Purpose" (PWAP). Proceeds from PWAP events are donated to local non-profit organizations. Texas Alaskan Malamute Rescue (TAMR) has hosted two PWAP events: holiday sled dog and Paint Your Pet.

These WIN-WIN events are a lot of FUN and FUNdraising for our rescue. Painting with a Twist donates 50% of each reservation. TAMR has raised more than \$1000 doing these events and we have another one planned in May!

Want a Painting with a Purpose event in your area? Visit <https://www.paintingwithatwist.com/> to find the location nearest to you. They will work with you on a date and picture. Happy painting!



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