

AMAL TALES

AUGUST 2017

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Mind the Mission

Summer is ending and in some ways, our workloads will be lighter. In other ways, we face exactly the same issues and burdens. Today, I'd like to focus on mission.

The Alaskan Malamute Club of America sponsors AMAL. Our mission is rescuing Alaskan malamutes. As we strive to accomplish that mission, we need to remember that we must collaborate and play by some ground rules.

- We need to avoid a sense of entitlement. To accomplish our mission, we must collaborate with local shelters, other breed rescues, or our own affiliates. We need to work together, and share stories and information. The best way to improve quality and meet the mission is to look for best practices from other areas, and adapt them to your affiliate.
- Let's not think that our way is the only way. Malamutes are beautiful, big, unique, and a little bit stubborn. The way that we handle malamutes may or may not be the best way. Let's make it a point to talk to ask, "Is this still the best way?" And find the answer.
- Know what's normal and what's not for your area, and understand that attitudes and beliefs may be different elsewhere.
- Some affiliates are flooded with malamutes while others may not be. When we venture into another affiliate's area, let's use our manners. Please reach out and ensure that the responsible affiliate knows of your interest in a dog in its area. Email is not sufficient. Pick up the phone and talk before any action.

Mind the Mission! We know this breed, we protect this breed. Rescue isn't about numbers, it's about quality of care. And two more quick points:

- There's an article on international adoptions (see page 5). It brings an important issue to light, but please be careful. Recently, a number of individuals were scammed; they donated money to rescue a malamute from a meat factory. Ultimately they learned there was no dog to be rescued, just a scammer with his paw out.
- Don't forget the Christenson Award nominations are due! Please take a few minutes to nominate your best volunteers. See the website for information.

Tina Dunn
AMAL President



Alaskan Malamute Assistance League

We Pull For Them



Puppies!

INSIDE

- Special Donations, page 2
- Disaster Preparation, page 3
- **PLEASE PAY YOUR ANNUAL DUES!** Form, page 6.
- International Adoptions, page 5
- National Specialty Show, page 7

AMAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Tina Dunn

president@malamuterescue.org

Vice President

Angela Brown

vicepresident@malamuterescue.org

Treasurer

Sharon Nichols

treasurer@malamuterescue.org

Members-at-Large

Vicky Meluso & Andrea Allen

director@malamuterescue.org

Membership

Shel Simpson

membership@malamuterescue.org

Secretary (non-voting)

Mike Ulman

secretary@malamuterescue.org

General Information

contact@malamuterescue.org

P.O. Box 7161

Golden, CO 80403

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://alaskanmalamuteassistanceleag>



Special Donations

May 1 through July 31, 2017

In Memory of Bill Dennis, by Patty Sanders, Cheryl McVay, Deb Doty and Jane Dersisaw

In Memory of Bill Dennis, by Stanley and Helen Sherman

In Memory of Audrey Thomas, Zardal Alaskan Malamutes, by Rolfe and Maria Dinwoodie

In Memory of our beautiful girl, "Chloe," by Bud & Janette Slusher

In Memory of Bill Dennis, by Sandy Dennis

In Memory of Bill Dennis, by Tricia Nichols, Suzanne Homes and Kathleen Hayden

In Memory of "Major," by Dr. Karina Burger and Dr. Timothy O'Brien

In Memory of Bill Dennis, by Chuck and Cherry Hall

In Memory of Bill Dennis, by Barb Yates



Alaskan Malamute Assistance League

..... We Pull For Them

Disaster Preparedness: Rescue Responsibility

August is a great time to review disaster preparedness as hurricanes gather in the Atlantic Ocean and rage toward the US mainland. Disaster preparedness has a couple of meanings in the rescue world. It means being prepared to handle your own malamutes in the case of a hurricane, tornado, or other unanticipated disaster. It also means being prepared for the influx of animals displaced by disasters. The most important point in disaster preparedness is to prepare for absolutely any disaster that comes your way. This includes the hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, tornadoes, fire, or power outages.

- Do you have a reserve of water? Even if you have a well, make sure you have a well pump that will operate without electricity.
- Do you have an alternate source of light? Determine the type of battery you need, and stock enough batteries to provide light for at least a week. Consider using solar lights, and charging them during the day to light your kennels during the evening.
- Do you have enough food? Observe your dogs for a week, and make note of how much they eat.
- Do you have a safe, dry storage area? Consider freezing a backup supply of food.
- Are your dogs tagged or chipped? One thing we learned from Hurricane Katrina is that often, dogs lose their collars and tags. Consider dyeing the dog's name and address into his side using hair dye if a serious disaster is looming.
- Do you have a backup copy of your dogs medical records? Increasingly we rely on electronic records, but in the case of an emergency, those paper copies come in handy.
- If you plan to receive malamutes during a disaster, do you have sufficient supplies to groom and feed incoming dogs? During hurricane Katrina response, officers from the US Public Health Service observed many volunteers wading into standing water, streams, and creeks and handling filthy animals without gloves. This increases risk of infection. Consider stockpiling a couple boxes of gloves and extra water for washing.

AMAL PROFIT & LOSS SUMMARY

April 1, 2017 – June 30, 2017

INCOME	
Includes all quarterly donations, dues & matching funds	\$1358.92
TOTAL INCOME	\$1358.92
EXPENSES	
Donations Out	\$475.00
Newsletter	\$259.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$734.00
Quarterly Net	\$624.52
Checkbook balance (as of June 30, 2017)	\$75726.81

Disaster Checklist

- ☐ A paper profile of each of your malamutes that includes
 - feeding schedules
 - medical conditions
 - medications
 - name and number of your veterinarian
- ☐ animal first-aid kit
- ☐ bowls
- ☐ **current photos of you with your malamute(s)**
- ☐ dog beds
- ☐ food and water
- ☐ hand sanitizer
- ☐ leashes, harnesses and or carriers
- ☐ manual can opener
- ☐ medication and copy of medical records
- ☐ Poison control number (888) 426-4435
- ☐ towels, old sheets and rags
- ☐ toys

Contact Precautions: Prevention is Best

Anyone who works with animals needs to be aware of contact precautions, especially when the animal's origins are unknown, or water is in short supply. Many animals, especially those that are filthy or soiled with urine or feces, carry infectious organisms.

Good hand hygiene is the single most important measure to prevent disease transmission. Rescue affiliates need to promote a culture of good hand hygiene. This means:

- encouraging volunteers and visitors to wash their hands before and after petting dogs
- posting signs that tell people to wash their hands for at least 15 seconds with soap and plenty of friction
- making alcohol-based hand cleaners available for people who find soap and water drying.

AMAL Tales is The Alaskan Malamute Assistance League's Newsletter, published quarterly in the spring, summer, fall and winter. All rights reserved. Copyright 2017.

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.



Battling Bloat: Canine Crisis

Cassandra Holveck

Get educated before it is too late for your furry friend!

Bloat, also known as gastric dilatation-volvulus (GVD), is a medical emergency. GVD occurs suddenly in healthy, active, large chested breeds like malamutes and can be fatal within 20 minutes. Second to cancer, bloat is the most common cause of canine death.

Background

Two things happen during bloat: gastric dilatation and volvulus. During gastric dilatation, the stomach fills with air, food, and/or liquid and swells. In the volvulus stage, the stomach twists 90 to 360 degrees, cutting off blood flow to vital organs. Bloat occur with or without stomach twisting, and is potentially deadly either way.

Causes of bloat include stress, gulping air, rapid eating (especially dry food that swells when wet), eating from a raised bowl, and exercising soon before or after eating. GVT can also be hereditary. The hallmark bloat symptom is retching or unproductive attempts to vomit. Table 1 describes symptoms.

Simethicone products (Mylanta Gas, Gas-X, etc) reduce gas and may buy time to reach the vet when your dog is bloating. The vet will relieve dilatation without volvulus by passing a rubber or plastic tube through the malamute's mouth into the stomach. However, volvulus requires emergency surgery to reposition the stomach and spleen.

Even with treatment, one source states 25-30% of dogs with GVD do not survive and 70-80% will have recurrent episodes.

Table 2. Prevention and Treatment Do's and Don'ts

Do's and don'ts to prevent first and/or future bloat occurrences:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• DO feed your malamute two or three small, well spaced meals• DO keep simethicone products on hand• DO try to avoid/minimize stress (boarding, new animals, change in routine) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• DON'T elevate food and water dishes more than 11"• DON'T use dry dog food exclusively• DON'T exercise your mal for at least an hour before and especially after eating• DON'T permit excessive, rapid drinking |
|---|---|

Gastropexy is a more invasive, costly method for preventing volvulus in high risk breeds. More commonly referred to as a "stomach tack," this laparoscopic procedure permanently attaches the dog's stomach to the abdominal wall to prevent twisting. Veterinarians often perform gastropexy at the time of neutering or spay, but it can be done at any age.

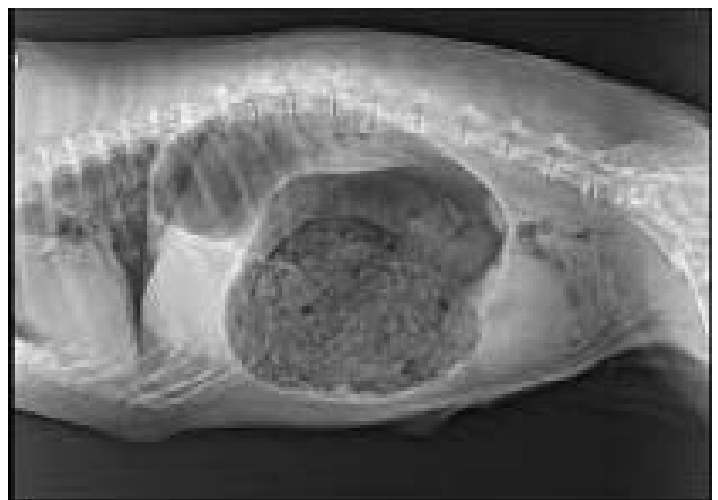
The bottom line: Don't waste time if you think your malamute is bloating. Alert your veterinarian and get there quickly. Early recognition and treatment are key to survival.



Table I. Symptoms of Bloat

- Retching or unproductive attempts to vomit
- Restlessness and pacing
- Enlarged, hard or tight stomach
- Lack of digestive sounds

If you suspect bloat in your malamute, bring him to a veterinarian immediately!



This is an x-ray of a dog experiencing bloat. The round shadows are air that has accumulated. If it continues to accumulate, the dog's stomach will rupture.

Between those who believe in international dog adoption and those who support focusing on local rescue efforts, a core question looms: Should people focus on local rescue to save the abundance of adoptable dogs being put to sleep locally? Or should they focus on saving needy dogs no matter their location, and no matter the cost?

By adopting internationally, organizations rescue dogs from places where they may not receive the same level of help as dogs in the United States. The Humane Society International (HSI) says it has facilitated international adoptions in South Korea in an effort to stop the dog meat trade. By working in South Korea, HSI says it has helped farmers transition to humane agriculture, such as sustainable crops. In 2015, HSI helped shut down four dog meat farms. American households adopted the dogs.

Transporting dogs internationally to the United States has challenges. A rescuer we'll call Grace says that airlines transport dogs of different sizes differently. Costs include the dog's crate, which must be airline-approved, shots, a fee to drive the dog to the airport, and the dog's health certificate. Dogs weighing up to 55 lbs can be flown as baggage for \$1000. Dogs weighing more are flown as cargo. Grace indicates that airlines calculate cargo costs by the pound of the combined weight of the dog and its shipping container, usually \$2,000 to \$3,000.

Grace says that small dogs require a courier when flying, and flight couriers can be difficult to find. Dogs shipped as baggage are added to the courier's ticket, but couriers incur no cost because the rescue pays any additional costs. The courier, however, is responsible for seeing the dog through Customs.

Many internationally adopted dogs lack any history (as do many rescued domestically dogs), particularly medical history, says Grace. Most adopted through their rescue have been heartworm positive, and have had other diseases such as Lyme disease. None have been spayed or neutered, and the lack of documentation means veterinarians must guess each dog's age.

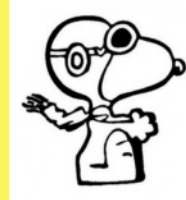
Once the dog enters the US, it needs immediate medical review. A rescue worker in northern Virginia who works with a large mixed breed rescue group—let's call her Hope—shared a story about a cat rescued from an Asian country. She says "The cat has a very expensive, difficult to treat disease—and it is contagious to other animals and people." International animals may bring new or rare diseases into the US. This situation consumes inordinate time and money, and causes heartache if the animal dies. Contagion to other animals or humans is also a serious concern. Internationally adopted dogs have other expenses (e.g. housing, medical expenses, vetting, food, and monthly preventives). Grace says that the average adoption fee in the US is \$250, a break-even fee that covers basic care. Since many of these dogs need heartworm treatment and spay/neuter, the 30 to 60 days minimum between heartworm treatment and the ability to spay/neuter adds costs that the rescue or adopter must absorb.

Grace believes international dog adoption is a relatively new "in" thing to do (a fad). She says "There's no advantage for animals to be adopted internationally over locally. Finding a home, people to love, it can happen anywhere." As international adoptions become more popular, groups are pooling resources to retrieve multiple dogs. They find shelters to commit to a number of dogs, and charter a dedicated plane for dogs, saving money. Hope believes international travel must be horribly stressful for animals. She cites the risk animals incur in the plane's baggage area, saying "There's no reason to take that risk." Hope also notes, "So many dogs are put to sleep right here every day." She believes that rescue organizations should spend money wisely. Hope says, "Rescuing internationally is not an efficient use of resources." Money used to fly animals internationally could save dogs locally.

Grace notes, "Donors believe there are many animals in the US that need help. Every country has dogs in need, all over the world. Choosing to help a dog internationally is at the rescue's discretion." She goes on to say "Rescues do receive some negative feedback, stating the funds to help an international dog should be used to help a dog in the US. However, some rescues ignore the negative comments, [feeling] a dog in need is a dog in need, and help where they can." They risk losing long-time donors.

Hope says, "The whole concept of rescue should be local." She explains that many rescues relocate dogs from under-funded shelters in less populated areas because they have insufficient adopters for all the animals that they receive. Consequently, they have much higher euthanasia rates. Relocating rescue animals domestically provides more resources and more potential adopters. Hope says it does not make sense to her to spend resources on international travel when redirecting those funds to working with local shelters will save many more lives in the end. Organizations need to decide whether they support international adoption, or if international adoption should be an individual's endeavor.

Mal Pal Spotlight: International Adoption, Domestic Debate



Sophia Delmar

NO-CAN DOG FOOD

INGREDIENTS

- 6 cups water
- 1 pound ground meat
- 2 cups brown rice
- 1 teaspoon rosemary
- 8 ounces frozen broccoli, carrots and cauliflower mix

DIRECTIONS

- Place all ingredients except the vegetables in a Dutch oven or crock pot
- Cook for 20 to 30 minutes on the stove or 4 to 6 hours in the crock pot
- Add the frozen vegetables and cook until heated

For the first time EVER, we have a picky eater in the house! He'll eat this mixture for a week or two. Then we switch the meat to fish and the vegetables to peas and green beans.

Our other malamute loves this, too, and never tires of it.

AMAL Membership Application/Renewal

July 2017 - June 2018

Go to <http://tinyurl.com/ycyl39po> 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://www.malamuterescue.org/index.php/shop-2/cd-registry-pedigree/>

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

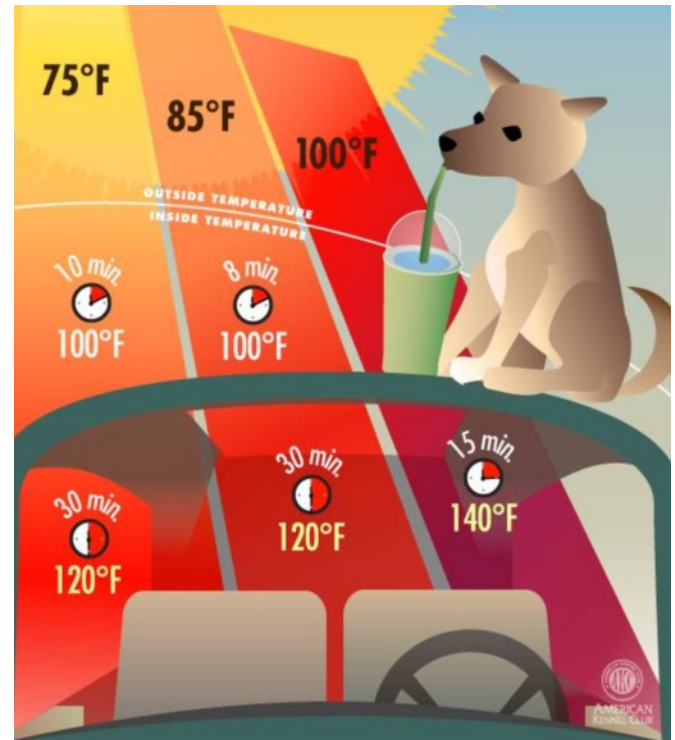
Total Amount Enclosed (membership + donations):

\$ _____

* 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!).

AMAL Membership
 c/o Treasurer
 P.O. Box 7161
 Golden, CO 80403



Roving reporter Ian D. Rowe reports that the District of Columbia City Council is taking a hard stand on leaving pets in the car. They approved emergency legislation cracking down on people who leave animals outside when the temperature is above 90°F. Approved on July 12, 2017, this is the Counsel's attempt to increase awareness of appropriate levels of care for animals.

The emergency ordinance gives police officers, firefighters and animal control officers authority to smash windows to rescue a pet left inside. The owner is responsible for all rescue-associated costs, and holds city employees harmless. In addition, DC authorities can fine pet owners up to \$1000 depending on the severity of the offense.

This emergency bill is a 90 day intervention. However, in the autumn, the DC Council will consider a measure called the "Standard of Care for Animals Amended Act of 2017." The Counsel is concerned about all types of weather including freezing cold. In January, city officials fielded numerous concerns from residents after a dog owner left a pit bull named Momma outside in extreme cold.

AMCA's 2017 Alaskan Malamute National Specialty



The 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 serve 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 with loving homes and families, help them gain confidence, provide security, and engage them in 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, historic breed activity and event memorabilia, mal images on gift items, unique functional items with malamute decoration, and stuffed animals (dark eyes preferred!). We will accept donations starting September 15, 2017.

Shipping instructions (September 15 or after)

AMAL

c/o Lori Conley
4182 West US Highway 6
Helena, Ohio 43435

We need volunteers to man the booth during show week. Please contact me directly at snichols@nurdog.com if you can help.

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

Hope to see you in Huron!
Sharon Nichols, for AMAL

Cover Photo: Puppies!

Illinois Alaskan Malamute Rescue Association (IAMRA) reports that they have puppies! Pictured to the right is a truly beautiful malamute named Izzy. Izzy was heartworm positive and intact at intake, which is not uncommon for dogs coming from the area where she was found. Rescue started doxycycline as heartworm pretreatment and monitored Izzy carefully.

As Izzy's belly grew, IAMRA's suspicions grew, too. It took an ultrasound to confirm that she had puppies on board. She delivered two male and four female puppies on July 28, 2017. They will be adoptable at 12 weeks.

At delivery, it became apparent that Papa was not a malamute. He was most likely a dark dog. Izzy isn't saying much about his identity except that she prefers tall, dark, and handsome. The babies were approximately 1 pound each at birth, which may or may not indicate Papa's size. This is the approximate size of most malamute pups.

Momma and babies are doing well. The pups are two weeks old as this newsletter goes to press and they're starting to open their eyes. Please visit

<https://www.facebook.com/illinoisalaskanmalamuterescueassociation/> and watch Izzy's journey with her babies!





Photo Op!

Texas Alaskan Malamute Rescue has debuted a new prop that they can use at their events. It's been really well received, especially by cell phone camera users. It's not just the humans who love this prop, the dog seemed happy with it, too!

One of TAMR's recent adopters painted this interactive booth. Her name is Jette McGavin, and she is a South African native who moved to Texas a few years ago. She adopted a malamute from TAMR, a lovely dog called Whiskey. Jette's become a regular volunteer and has also opened an Etsy shop called "Sled Dog Embroidery."