

# AMAL TALES

FEBRUARY 2018

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

### Let's Start with Condolences

Sadly, I'll start this message with a note of sympathy to Katy Flanagan, our treasured associate at Moonsong Malamute Rescue, who lost her soul mate recently. Gary Grimm passed away in January 2018. Gary, like Katy, was a malamute lover and supported Katy in every way possible as she dedicated these last 11 years to Alaskan malamute rescue. Gary's other causes included the Speak for Wolves annual conferences, net neutrality, climate change awareness, sustainability, human and wildlife rights, and many other environmental causes. Katy, all of us are thinking of you and hoping that your good memories and time will heal the pain. The world will miss Gary.

Next, many of you are aware that the Northwest SPCA took possession of dozens of dogs recently in Oroville, CA. They are primarily Alaskan malamutes, German shepherds, or mixes of the two breeds. SPCA did a wonderful job of placing the dogs at various chapters before releasing the news to the media, thus preventing speculation and allowing them to concentrate their efforts on the dogs, not the phones. Northwest SPCA reports that they expect to be able to place the numerous puppies with little difficulty, but will need our help with the adult malamutes. As is always the case, possession is nine-tenths of the law, and we are respecting the SPCA's wishes and preferences as we would hope others would respect ours if the shoe was on the other paw. We expect to help with a handful of adult malamutes quite soon.

Once again, let's continue to work together. Let's take every opportunity to contact nearby affiliates and have positive discussion when we have questions about dogs who need homes or rumors about large numbers of dogs being seized. We have the experience to deal with all kinds of problems. Talking to each other is one of the best ways to build collaborative networks and ensure that every malamute who needs a home is placed in the most efficient way.

I look forward to updating you in May, 2018!

*Tina Dunn*  
AMAL President



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**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://alaskanmalamuteassistanceleag>



## Special Donations

*Nov 1 through Dec 31, 2017*

- ☐ In Memory of Ritzie, by Dian McComb
- ☐ In honor of Catherine White for decades of support and leadership to benefit malamutes who have fallen on hard times, and in honor of Jeannette Wick for her talent and hard work publishing our stellar newsletter AMAL Tales, by A.C. Vernor



## 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).**



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## Diatomaceous Earth

Diatomaceous earth has gained a reputation in the dog-loving community for its ability to control internal and external parasites. Also called diatomite, this soft, crumbled sedimentary substance is naturally occurring. Diatomaceous earth comes as a fine white or off-white powder that may have an scratchy feel. Its sharp edges are its secret.

Diatomaceous earth develops in areas where diatoms—tiny organisms with outer shells made of silica—become fossilized. A type of phytoplankton, diatoms live in the oceans, fresh water, soils, and on damp surfaces. Many industries use diatomaceous earth as mild abrasives (e.g. metal polishes and toothpastes), absorbents, cat litter components, blood clotting activators, dynamite stabilizers, and thermal insulators.

Diatomaceous earth is mined from fields that can date back to the Stone Age and before. Large fields exist in Canada, and they developed during the Miocene Age 12 to 13 million years ago. Germany has many diatomaceous earth fields. In the United States, the largest deposits are in Colorado and California.

Diatomaceous earth comes in three types (See box, right), and dog owners should select human grade products. One benefit, noted by Sylvia Bailey (who uses this product on DeeJay), is that it is scent-free. In the canine community, pet owners use diatomaceous earth as an insecticide. As noted, its sharp edges pierce parasites' outer waxy coverings and its ability to extract moisture dehydrates them. It effectively kills arthropods and gastropods, and will also handle garden slugs.

It's critical to read the label when purchasing diatomaceous earth for two reasons:

- (1) It is only effective as an insecticide if it is uncalcinated. Calcination means it is heat-treated, so look for products that are not heat-treated.
- (2) It must have a mean particle size below about 12 micrometers, meaning it must be food grade.

For dogs weighing more than 55 pounds, the usual dose is one tablespoon daily in food. For small dogs, it's one teaspoon daily. Diatomaceous earth is also used externally to control parasites; rub the powder at full strength into the coat for fleas and sprinkle on bedding, but be certain to avoid the eyes and mucous membranes. Avoid inhaling the powder.



### TYPES OF DIATOMACEOUS EARTH

- **Granulated diatomaceous earth** is a raw material simply crushed for convenient packaging
- **Milled or micronized diatomaceous earth** is very fine (10 micrometers to 50 micrometers) and used as an insecticide
- **Calcinated diatomaceous earth** is heat-treated and activated for use in filters

### AMAL PROFIT & LOSS SUMMARY

October 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017

#### INCOME

Donations in	
General	\$6149.50
Other	\$2262.40
National Specialty	\$3445.50
Quarterly donations, dues & matching funds	\$2826.50
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$14683.90</b>

#### EXPENSES

Newsletter	\$257.83
Veterinary	\$2588.22
National Specialty	\$336.43
Total Donations Out	\$2532.00
Other Expenses	\$1344.93
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$7059.95</b>
<b>Quarterly Net Income</b>	<b>\$7623.95</b>
<b>Checkbook balance (as of December 31, 2017)</b>	<b>\$83200.89</b>

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# Dealing with Cynophobia, or Fear of Dogs

Danielle McPherson

Surprisingly enough, cynophobia (the fear of dogs—a form of animal phobia) is one of the more prevalent phobias among Americans—it appears that about 22% of Americans have a fear of animals, and fear of dogs is especially common. It's often very limiting because people encounter dogs more frequently in their daily routines than many other animals or insects. This country's 60 million dogs are frequently outside when people go for a walk, in the park when they play with their kids, and at friends' and relatives' house when they visit. For this reason, cynophobics find it very hard to avoid triggering this phobia. Additionally, people with a strong fear of dogs may be frightened by other types of animals. Their fear may extend to items associated with dogs (dog collars or veterinarians), and they may avoid places if they even suspect that they may run into dogs.

Most cynophobic fears originate from a negative experience with a dog in childhood or adolescence. Also, individuals who know a friend and/or relative who has been attacked or bitten by a dog are at increased risk of developing this phobia. Younger children also tend to take cues from their parents. Therefore, someone is more likely to be afraid if his or her parent instinctively shies away from dogs or avoids them when visiting others' homes. In some cases, cynophobics have witnessed tragic or frightening events involving dogs. And some people indicate that they are only afraid of big dogs, but most cynophobics have an irrational, uncontrollable fear of all dogs.

Guests may outwardly express their fear of dogs, but sometimes you have to infer from someone's actions that he or she has a fear. It's important to evaluate the guest's body language first – Is he or she a natural around your dog? Or does he or she seem petrified? Does he or she shy away?

Some other **signs and symptoms** to look out for when visitors are near your dog:

- Attempting to hide
- Freezing in terror
- Limiting contact with dogs or dog owners
- Running away
- Shaking or crying
- Shortness of breath



© Can Stock Photo / abluccup

Although hard to believe as a devoted malamute owner, some guests just do not love dogs as much as you do. The most obvious way to deal with nervous visitors is to keep your dog away from them. Some possible approaches to this are:

- Crating your dogs
- Enclosing them in another room of the home
- Letting your dogs outside



It's important to give your dog things to do while you sequester them from guests. Consider providing chew toys, games to play with, or treats to eat. It is also helpful to visit them every once in a while; otherwise they may feel as if they are being punished. Using a baby gate or another type of barrier allows your dog to move around and see what is going on. Although your dog won't be able to physically touch your visitor, he or she will still have more freedom than being contained in a cage or crate.

Cynophobics can overcome their fear with therapy, and sometimes, it involves exposure therapy. Dog owners can help them become more comfortable with their dogs, but should never push. Animals are very good at sensing both emotion and tension; a calm environment leads to a calm pet. Asking your guest what specific concerns he or she has about dogs is also a good way to avoid any unneeded drama. Encourage your guests to pet or give your predictable, well-trained malamute a treat during the visit if your malamute has a gentle mouth—this will also make a happy dog! If you have that rare malamute who actually LISTENS to commands, teach your visitor how to tell the malamute to sit or roll over. That will give the visitor a sense of control and accomplishment.

Above all, keep all interactions as positive as possible so your visitors keep coming back!



Every day, in every state, dog lovers hear stories like this one.

In January, 2018, Animal Control in Virginia received six malamutes in an owner-release from someone who just a few years ago had released 19. None had received any medical care, all were intact.

In the previous owner release in June, 2013, one of the 19 was an eight year old female who died while giving birth, as did her five puppies. At the same time, a ten year old pregnant female was producing a bloody discharge. She was released to CHAAMP, underwent emergency surgery, and lost her puppies as well. Once recovered, she was adopted and lived the rest of her life—an additional three years—loved and cherished by her family.

Now, history repeats itself. In this current situation, Wolf Spirit Sled Dog Rescue pulled two of the six seized malamutes: eight year old Lola (previously Luna), who is extremely shy, and ten year old Lance. Lance is the only dog of the six who has been socialized with both dogs and humans. Lola is taking baby steps and making progress. Some days it's one step forward and two steps back.

CHAAMP pulled seven year old Merlin and Kaleena, who is four. They share the same parents. Merlin is a bit skittish. As a human approaches, Merlin runs to a corner to cower, and will urinate on himself. While he is not aggressive, leashing and walking him is a challenge. With daily doses of love, Merlin will eventually be adoptable.

Lola, who was originally named Jett, was born in 2008 and is the mother of Merlin, Kaleena, and Jazz. She was adopted from the shelter very recently.



*Jazz*

Sadly, that leaves Jazz, who turned seven in December. Jazz remains with the Charlottesville Albemarle SPCA, in Charlottesville VA. It's a no kill shelter. As shelters go, it's a clean, well organized facility, with an abundance of volunteers who care for the animals daily. Jazz isn't able to go on the general public adoption floor. She is very fearful, although not aggressive at all. Jazz would definitely benefit from living with a large male dog to help build her confidence.

Jazz deserves a better life and the shelter is hopeful a

rescue or an adopter experienced in fearful dogs will become available. The shelter web site is [www.caspca.org](http://www.caspca.org), their email address is [adoptions@caspca.org](mailto:adoptions@caspca.org), and their phone is (434) 973-5959. If a suitable home cannot be found, she may have to go to Best Friends Sanctuary.



## Mal Pal Spotlight: Owner Release of Six Shy Malamutes



*Merlin*



*Kaleena*



## HOMEMADE VERSION OF FRESHPET VITAL

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup quinoa
- 2 cups chicken broth
- ½ cup lentils
- 1 medium sweet potato
- 4 medium carrots
- ½ cup frozen peas
- 4 tablespoons buckwheat flour
- 4 tablespoons sunflower oil
- ½ cup dried cranberries

This is a recipe that comes from a dear friend who has Samoyeds, one of whom has failing kidneys. It was well worth a little bit of looking to find the buckwheat flour.

Our two malamutes decided that if this is what they have for dinner in Kansas, they will dye their hair white and move out there!!!

### 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](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://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



### Stalking Two Picky Malamutes

*Jeannette Wick*

Faithful readers will recall that my male malamute, Leo, is a picky eater. I never thought I would use the word "picky" and "malamute" in the same sentence, but Leo is indeed as finicky as a cat. He dislikes peas. We know this because he picks each one out of any dinner that contains peas and drops it on the floor next to the bowl. He also will often leave food in the bowl, something I have never seen before in a malamute.

Charlotte is your garden variety malamute in terms of appetite. She eats everything, and the more, the better. She also hurries to gobble Leo's rejected peas or dinner remnants. But recently, I noticed that after wolfing down most of her meal she left large pieces of food in her bowl. She walked away from it and hovered over Leo as he slowly ate his dinner. With a growl, he finally abandoned his dinner. He, too, left part of his dinner in his bowl. But this time, he visited Charlotte's bowl and cleaned it out.

This happened at the next meal, too. By the third meal, I was watching those two like a hawk! That was when I realized that Leo was only eating broccoli crowns and leaving the stalks in the bowl. Charlotte, on the other hand, only ate the stalks and left the crowns and her bowl. At the end of the meal they switched and gobbled up their preferred part of the broccoli.

Humans tend to have a preference for either broccoli crowns or stems, and this is why grocery stores have stopped selling whole broccoli for the most part. Shoppers can choose a bag full of crowns (and pay more than if they purchase crowns with a significant portion of the stem left on or whole broccoli).

The Internet is full of debate about crowns (which are also called florets) versus stalks. Of note, Some people indicate that crowns and stalks are nutritionally identical. Others say that the crowns contain more chlorophyll and vitamin A than the stalk, but the stalks have seven times more beta-carotene, and a bit more calcium, iron, and vitamin C.

Regardless, at our house, none of it goes to waste.





## AMCA's 2018 Alaskan Malamute National Specialty

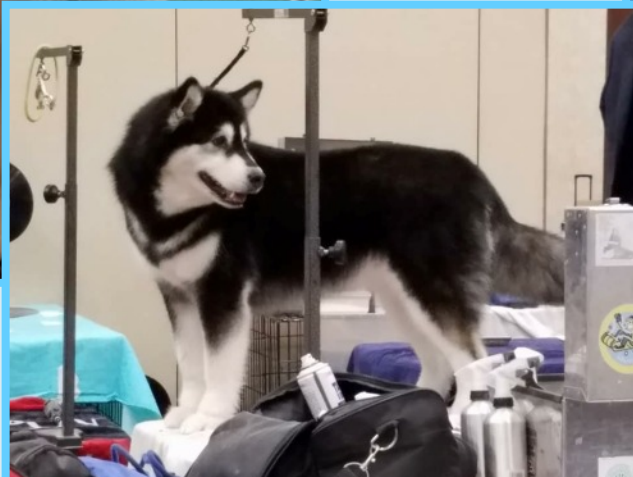
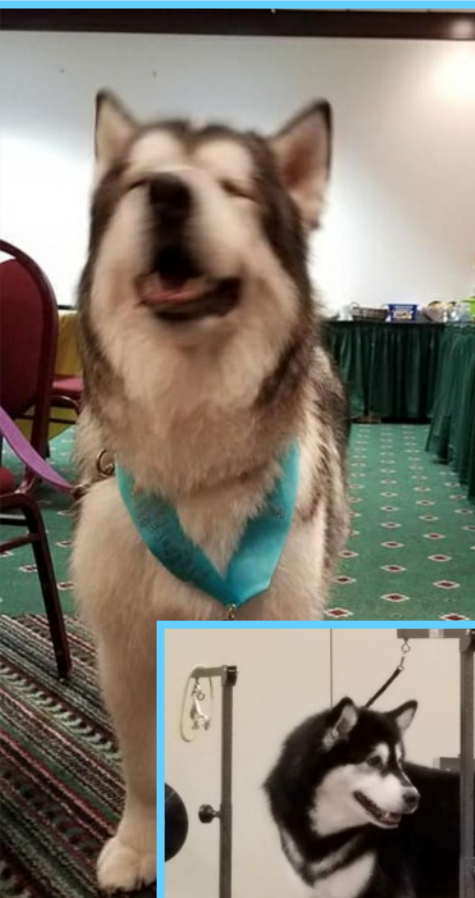
This year's National Specialty Show, scheduled for October 28 through November 3, is hosted by the Southern Region and will be held at Doubletree, by Hilton at Orlando at SeaWorld Resort, in Orlando, Florida. The Show Chair is Barbara Salvadore, and Kymm and Roger Bass are the Assistant Show Chairs. Find information at this link: <http://amcanational.com/>. Hotel reservations are first come, first serve so be sure to make your plans early! When placing hotel reservations, be sure to use the code "AMC 2018" for the group rate!

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

have been T-shirts, sweatshirts, sledding or weight pull equipment, historical breed activities and events, malamute images on gift items, unique functional items with malamute decoration, and stuffed animals (dark eyes preferred) to name a few. With more and more international attendees, we need several items that pack well in a suitcase! Shipping instructions and additional show details will be provided in our next newsletter.

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

*Pictures from the 2017 National Specialty, clockwise from top: The successful AMAL booth; The Lineup!; Lunge for that treat; Who knew a mani-pedi could be so wonderful?; Shake it until you make it!*



## Roving Reporter: Farewell Piper

As we do in many issues, in this issue we recognize a canine who while not a malamute, is a dog to be reckoned with. Piper, a border collie from Traverse City, Michigan, died early in January 2018. He was nine.

The Internet jettisoned Piper to fame for his work as the airport K-9 wildlife control officer at Cherry Capital Airport. His presence met a Federal Aviation Administration requirement for the airport to have a hazard mitigation plan. Piper's picture and story went viral after his owner, Brian Edwards, created a Facebook account and Piper's picture landed on Reddit.

Piper did an exceptional job. In his three-year career, he chased 8,376 birds from the airport. Piper had patrolled 1,907 miles and logged 6,206 hours at the airport.

Mr. Edwards continues to post on Piper's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/airportk9/>).

Roving reporter Caroline Wick alerted us to this sad news. For more information, visit Piper's Facebook page or [https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/animalia/wp/2018/01/05/rip-piper-a-heroic-dog-who-kept-airport-runways-safe/?utm\\_term=.22ebf14c041b](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/animalia/wp/2018/01/05/rip-piper-a-heroic-dog-who-kept-airport-runways-safe/?utm_term=.22ebf14c041b).

