

# AMAL TALES

MAY 2018

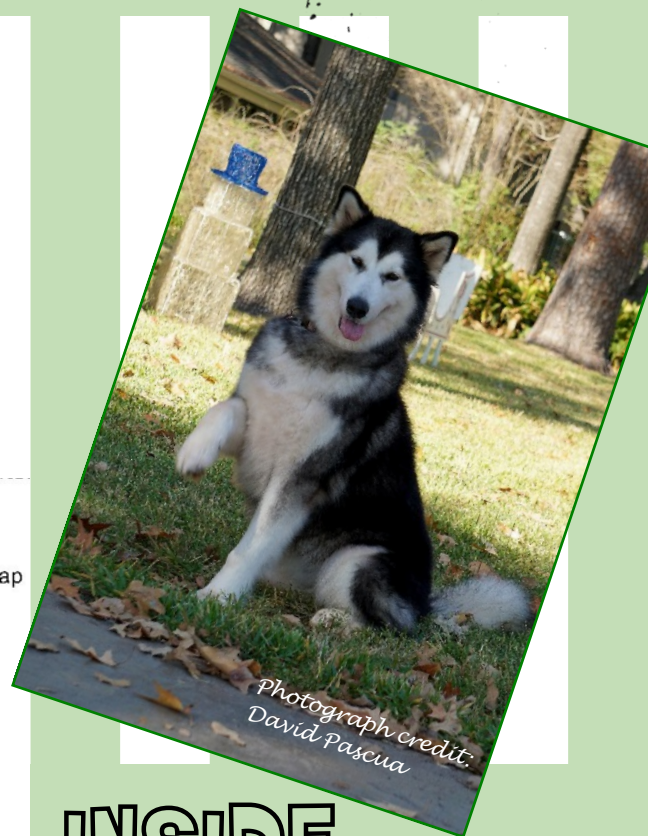
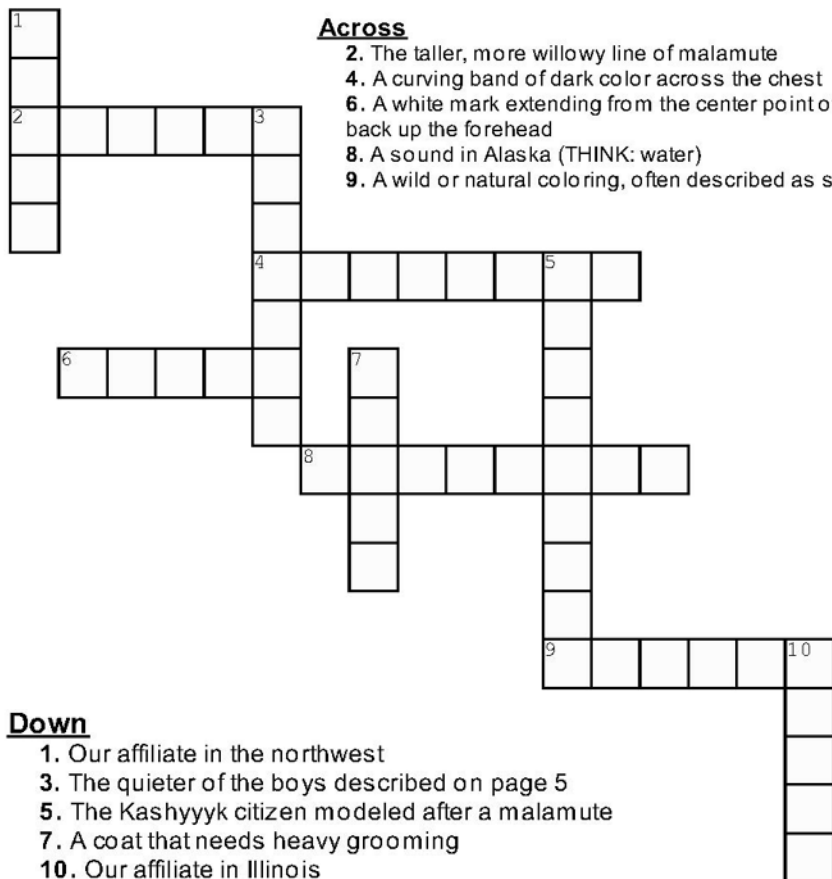


## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

### Life Happens

From time to time, despite our best intentions, life happens and things other than rescue take precedent. Several of us are experiencing those challenges right now, so my message is , "Carry on and do your best." And if you need to chill out, read the newsletter and do this crossword puzzle.

*Tina Dunn*  
AMAL President



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**Alaskan Malamute Assistance League**

*We Pull For Them*

## AMAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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.

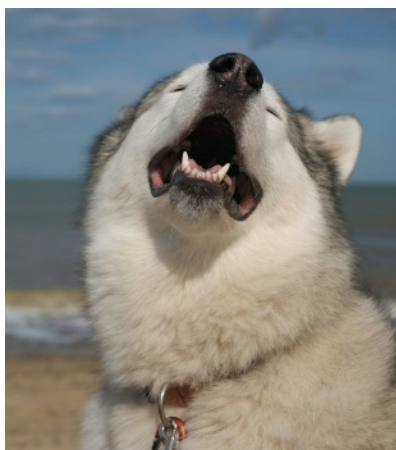
## DONATE

AMAL is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose funding comes from donations and fundraising 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://alaskanmalamuteassistanceleague.org/about-amal/donate>



## Special Donations

February 1<sup>st</sup> through  
April 30, 2018

- Donations made by anonymous donors via Facebook by NetWork for Good
- In honor of his second adopted mal, by Jack Saltes
- In honor of the beloved breed & his past malamutes, by Glenn Parker

## COVER GIRL: LOVELY EVA

Texas gal, Eva, is looking for a furever home! Contact Texas Alaskan Malamute Rescue for more info @ [tamr@texalmal.org](mailto:tamr@texalmal.org)



*Photograph credit:  
David Pascua*

## 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).



## Words We Toss Around

We toss around many words in malamute rescue, and some of them can be confusing, especially to adopters whose contact with your rescue is brief and focused. They may not understand some of the words that volunteers use, and in the chaos of adoption, they may not ask. Or, consider the repeat adopter whose original malamutes were small, sturdy, bear-faced dogs with short, coarse, oily coats; she falls in love with a malamute she finds on your web site, but questions if this is really a malamute. Said dog is taller, a little bit willowy, and has long silky hair. Often, when faced with questions, rescue personnel use words like "Kotzebue" or "M'Loot." Words are the currency of communication, and these two adjectives are rarely used outside of our community. Something many malamute lovers may not know is they reflect the American Kennel Club's recognition of the Alaskan malamute as a distinct breed, and revisions to the standard over decades. Much of the story, which is far too long to report here, highlights the politics of dog breeding and breed standards. It's a story rife with opinion, disagreement, and calculating behavior. (The story's twists and turns suggest that the movie *Dog Show* was not too far off the mark! Find a summary here: <https://www.slideshare.net/Prezi22/alaskan-malamute-seminar>) The bottom line is that helping adopters understand these words can explain why different malamutes look, well...different!

The table below describes the differences between these strains, or lines of malamute. The American Kennel Club first recognized the Alaskan Malamute in 1935. At the time, only Kotzebues were considered for AKC recognition. Over the ensuing years, the malamute community hotly debated what constitutes a malamute, with some staunchly supporting the Kotzebue as the true breed, and others lobbying to recognize the M'Loot. Eventually, a malamute lover combined M'Loot and Kotzebues to create what became the Husky-Pak line. Today, most malamutes are descended from the early strains, and have characteristics of each to varying degrees. Very few pure Kotzebues or M'loots exist.

Another set of words that can confuse adopters: long coat and wooly coat. Long coats—sometimes as long as eight inches— are soft, straight, and lie flat; this coat resembles that of a Border Collie. Wooly coats are thick, dense, oily and may have a kinky or coarse texture. Although wooly coats usually have long guard hairs, the guard hair can be sorter and they always tend to retain loose fur. Owners need to brush or comb routinely, often contending with mats, to keep the coat well groomed.

Kotzebues and M'Loots: Alaskan Malamute Ancestry		
Trait	Kotzebue	M'Loot
Body shape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bear-like heads with blunter muzzles, wider chests</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Larger ears and longer noses, narrower chests</li><li>• Rears sometimes lack the angulation of the Kotzebue</li></ul>
Coat and color	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nice coats, gray and white only (wolf gray)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Variety of colors, including red</li></ul>
Build	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Compact/stocky body build with heavy bone</li><li>• Sometimes short legged</li><li>• Weight 60 to 80 pounds</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rangier body build with finer bone</li><li>• Taller</li><li>• Weight 70 to 90 pounds</li></ul>
Disposition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Congenial and get along with other malamutes quite well</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tendency to be a little aggressive</li></ul>
Name derivation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Named after the Kotzebue Sound, which was named after Otto von Kotzebue, an explorer who searched for the Northwest Passage in the service of Russia in 1818.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Named after Paul Voelker's M'Loot kennels in Michigan</li></ul>

AMAL Tales is The Alaskan Malamute Assistance League's Newsletter, published quarterly in the spring, summer, fall and winter. All rights reserved. Copyright 2018.

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

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## RED, WHITE, AND SOMETIMES BLUE

Malamute aficionados know that all malamutes do not look alike, but can you describe your pup using accurate language?

On the hunt for obscure information about malamutes, one often finds handy documents that contain helpful information. One such site is World Mals' colors and markings page (<http://www.worldmals.com/colors.htm>). We've included many of their definitions to the right, and if you visit their page, they include pictures illustrating each.

Most of us are familiar with the usual malamute colors, and routinely see dogs that are black, seal, gray, red, sable, and silver with the trademark white stockings and chest. We even see a white malamute from time to time.



In the February 2017 issue of *AMAL TALES*, we featured a lovely dog with an agouti coat, Sequoia (pictured to the left and above), usually described as wolf or wild pattern (similar to the pattern seen in wolves) or a sooty or muddy look. Sadly, Sequoia passed away last May.

A rarer color is the blue malamute. Tanja Gube, *AMAL*'s good friend in Germany, has a blue malamute (pictured above as a puppy, in her later official photo, and with Tanja's

Cavalier in August, 2017, when she was 12.5 year old). Sky (Benchmark My Blue Heaven II, CGC, RN) is a beauty. Using the vocabulary to the right, how would you describe her?

## THE VOCABULARY OF MARKINGS

### FACE and HEAD

**CAP:** a cap of color covers the top of the head and ears usually coming to a point in the center of the forehead

**OPEN FACE:** a cap covering the top of the head and no other markings on the face

**BLAZE:** a white mark extending from the center point of the cap back up the forehead. Width and length can vary

**STAR:** a small white spot in the center of the forehead

**EYE SHADOW:** dark markings under the eyes but not extending out to the cap

**GOGGLES:** dark areas under the eyes and extending sideways to the cap

**BAR:** a dark area extending from the center point of the cap down the nose

**MASK:** the combination of cap and goggles

**FULL MASK:** the combination of cap, goggles and bar

**CLOSED FACE:** dark coloring covering the face with no distinct markings on the face

### CHEST and BODY

**NECKLACE:** a curving band of dark color across the chest

**EAGLE:** two bands of dark color protruding partially across the chest, forming a pattern resembling the eagle emblem

**WHITE CHEST:** any necklace across the chest

**COLLAR:** a white band of color encircling the neck

**WITHERS SPOT:** a white mark varying in size but centered on the withers or at the base of the neck

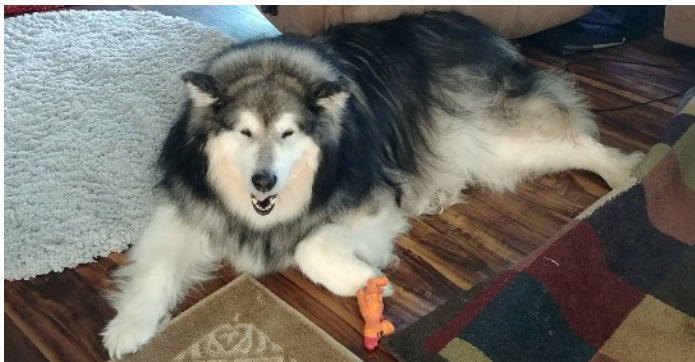
Find more information about coat colors here:

<http://nicholescritters.homestead.com/malcolorgenetics.html>





Stormy and his brother Thunder, both age 9, came to IAMRA in November, 2017 after their divorcing owners surrendered them. Both had tangled coats, double ear infections, and were overweight (in the 140s). They spent a couple of weeks at the vet's clinic. Stormy had blown his right canine cruciate ligament (CCL) and a compromised left CCL, causing pain and impairing his walking, but his weight prevented immediate surgery. Three volunteers visited these boys daily, walked them, and provided loving reassurance. Soon, they were ready for a five hour trip south to foster care. On the trip, Stormy laid down just behind the front seats where he could be petted and enjoy the ride. Conversely, Thunder remained anxious and unsettled.



## STORMY

Happy, boisterous Stormy was affectionate with everyone from the start. In April, volunteers met half way to exchange precious cargo—Stormy—and return him to Yorkville, IL for CCL surgery on his knee and three weeks of recovery and cold laser therapy. Meanwhile, IAMRA worried the separated boys might develop depression. However, Thunder, the more reserved of the two, thrived. Soon, it was clear that separation might allow Thunder to thrive, and would increase their adoptability.

Judy and her 15 year old son jumped at the chance to foster Stormy. His new foster family included a 13 year old husky (Odin) who has had difficulty coming out of his shell. Stormy's arrival lit Odin's cloudy blue eyes and his tailed curled tighter. Odin showed off a bit, pouncing on his bones and eating his dog food in front of Stormy. The meeting went perfectly. Next Stormy met a grumpy Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever and the resident cat. The cat didn't even bother to rise, indicating a successful meet-and-greet.

Stormy, now 118 pounds and still dieting, behaves himself and stays within his weight bearing exercise and pulling restrictions. Odin, who eschews dog food (preferring roasted turkey and rotisserie chicken), has influenced Stormy. He, too, wants freshly prepared meat! Stormy and Odin also enjoy singing the songs of their tribe. Stormy needs someone strong enough to handle him when his small prey drive kicks in.



## THUNDER

Thunder's story is a bit different. When the car arrived at his foster home, he was eager to exit, but hesitant. He was obedient, but seemed a little lost. After a week, he learned the routine and never created problems. He even started wagging his tail when foster mom Nancy would walk him solo.

In early February, something went terribly wrong. Lethargic on Monday, Thunder developed flu-like symptoms. By Friday, his abdomen started swelling rapidly. Saturday, the vet ran several inconclusive tests. Discharged home and under close watch, Thunder's swelling stabilized for a day, but by Monday, he spiraled downward. This time, the vet found fluid accumulating around Thunder's heart and drained about two gallons of fluid from his heart sac and abdomen. By 9:30 PM, he was ready to come home. His condition is similar to congestive heart failure in humans, and is easily managed with two inexpensive medications – enalapril and furosemide.

Now thinner, he takes longer walks and enjoys life. He makes friends easily and loves to meet "his" people at the gate with his tail wagging a welcome. His widespread arthritis limits his movement, but he never complains. He will need life-long medication for his heart. Some days he rests all day; other days he wanders about the yard and enjoys walks in the field. But his favorite place is the flowerbed. He's the prettiest flower in the garden!



## CHICKEN AND SPINACH MEATBALLS

### INGREDIENTS

- 4 lbs ground chicken
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 ½ cups brown rice, prepared
- 15 ounces tomato sauce
- 1 very large yam, cooked/cooled/chopped
- 4 to 5 cups fresh spinach

Brown the chicken in the olive oil in a big pot. Add all the ingredient. Blend with an immersion blender, leaving some pieces. Chill. The next day, scoop into servings with an ice cream scoop. Thaw as needed.

These meatballs are also very tasty for humans.

### 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



### AMAL PROFIT & LOSS SUMMARY

January 1, 2018 – March 31, 2018

#### INCOME

Donations in	
General	\$740.00
Membership	\$1025.00
Other	\$810.82

**TOTAL INCOME** \$ 2,575.82

#### EXPENSES

Newsletter	\$266.85
Veterinary	2,466.86
Total Donations Out	\$700.00
Other Expenses	\$125.00

**TOTAL EXPENSES** \$3558.71

**Quarterly Net Income** ( 982.89)

**Checkbook balance (as of March 31, 2018)** \$81918.00

### MALAMUTE BREED TELLS STAR WARS FANS, "YOU'RE WELCOME!"

With the imminent release of *Solo: A Star Wars Story*, Han Solo's loyal friend and sidekick Chewbacca will make yet another appearance, no doubt endearing the globe once again. Chewbacca is a tall, hairy Wookiee from the planet Kashyyyk. He is known for his gentle demeanor and tremendous intelligence.

While many references indicate Chewbacca was inspired by George Lucas's dog, few acknowledge that the dog was an Alaskan Malamute. That mal, a female named Indiana, was Lucas's frequent copilot in the passenger seat of his car and supervised him in his office as he wrote. Indiana, a 130 pound long-haired black and white beauty, also lent her moniker to Indiana Jones.

Lucas made Chewbacca strong, brave, resilient, imposing, playful, and fiercely loyal. These certainly sound like traits a malamute owner would recognize. Chewie's original appearance, which has evolved over the years, included perky ears, bright eyes, and occasionally, a lolling tongue.





## 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!

Please also begin thinking of unique Alaskan and malamute-related items that will sell well at the AMAL Booth and at the AMCA Auction. Other years' top selling items

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!

Send your Sales and Auction donations to AMAL for arrival between September 24 and October 25:

### AMAL

c/o Lisa Henderson  
606 SE Harbor View Dr.  
Port Saint Lucie, FL 34983

Please contact me if you plan to attend and can help out at the AMAL Booth: [snichols@nurdog.com](mailto:snichols@nurdog.com).

Hope to see you in at Seaworld!  
*Sharon Nichols, for AMAL*



*Pictures  
from 2017  
Nationals*



# IF IT WALKS LIKE A MALAMUTE AND WOOS LIKE A MALAMUTE...



© Can Stock Photo / RATOCA

Researchers working in WAMAL's territory (Washington State) studied a malamute's every move to create an artificial intelligence (AI) system that ultimately may be used to create automated assistance devices for humans. AI systems usually rely on a set of rules and calculations that process data describing events, and then use the information to predict future behavior. Current AI systems can perform tasks we only dreamed of 30 years ago, like identifying objects, navigating streets, and recognizing faces and expressions. They don't rise to the "smart dog" level of intelligence in any way, however.

The University of Washington and the Allen Institute for AI collaborated to use dog behavior as the basis for AI. Interested readers can find the nuts and bolts of what they did and why they did it in their open-access paper titled, *Who Let The Dogs Out? Modeling Dog Behavior From Visual Data* (available here <https://arxiv.org/pdf/1803.10827.pdf>) Their goal: to create an AI system that would act as a dog does under given circumstances. In dog-speak, they wired a malamute named Kelp M. Redmon to collect data. They put a camera and a microphone on the malamute's head, and sensors on his or her body, legs and tail. Then, Kelp did what malamutes do best: run, play, eat, rest.

The research paper refers to the study subject as "the dog" throughout. In my humble opinion, it failed to address some of the questions that would most interest our readers: How on earth did they get a malamute to agree to all the wires and head gear? Is Kelp a male or a female? Many subsequent news articles to "him," but the dog's sex is unclear. Can we see a more flattering picture? Those in the news releases show Kelp covered in wires (find some better pictures at <https://twitter.com/pjreddie/media>).

All efforts to reach Kelp's human companion were unsuccessful. One site quotes the study's lead author as saying, "Another application would be making a robot dog that acts exactly the same as your real dog. The emotional reactions and their interests will be the same. It's like making your dog live forever."

That's something to think about.

AMAL Tales  
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