

# AMAL TALES

AUGUST 2018

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

### This & That &

### RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Finally, a President's Message that almost writes itself!!! Please take a minute to read these announcements and take action if necessary!

First, **it's time to pay your annual dues**. Your dues support national rescue efforts and bring you this newsletter on a quarterly basis. Any malamute lover can see that your investment is worthwhile and productive. So please go to page 6, and either complete the form and mail it, or follow the directions for the online payment method. And thank you for your continuing support.

Next, please note that we've had some changes on the Board. **We have a new Vice President, Andrea Allen and we also welcome Miranda Murdoch** as a Director-at-Large.

**Andrea replaces Angela Brown**. Angela has been integral to our organization for years, and we will miss her. Angela's presence on the east coast—she has run Cheasapeake Area Alaskan Malamute Protection and Alaskan Malamute Rescue of Delaware—has saved many canine lives and brought joy to thousands of homes in numerous states. She single-handedly recruited our current newsletter editor, and has provided a considerable amount of support, content, and ideas for our publication. Thank you, Angela!

And, AMAL has a **new affiliate in Florida and the lower south**, an area that has had no organized malamute rescue for quite some time. AMAL welcomes GTS Husky Rescue (<https://www.gtshuskyrescue.com/>) as its newest affiliate, and its director, Natalie Lucia. GTS is based in Jupiter, Florida, and rescues all sled dog breeds. This rescue established its malamute credentials by taking in a dozen of the Aquila malamutes in Mississippi, one of whom gave birth to ten puppies also being fostered by GTS.

We're looking for **nominations for the Christenson Award**. Quick! Flip your newsletter over and read the back page for a description of the eligibility criteria and nomination process.

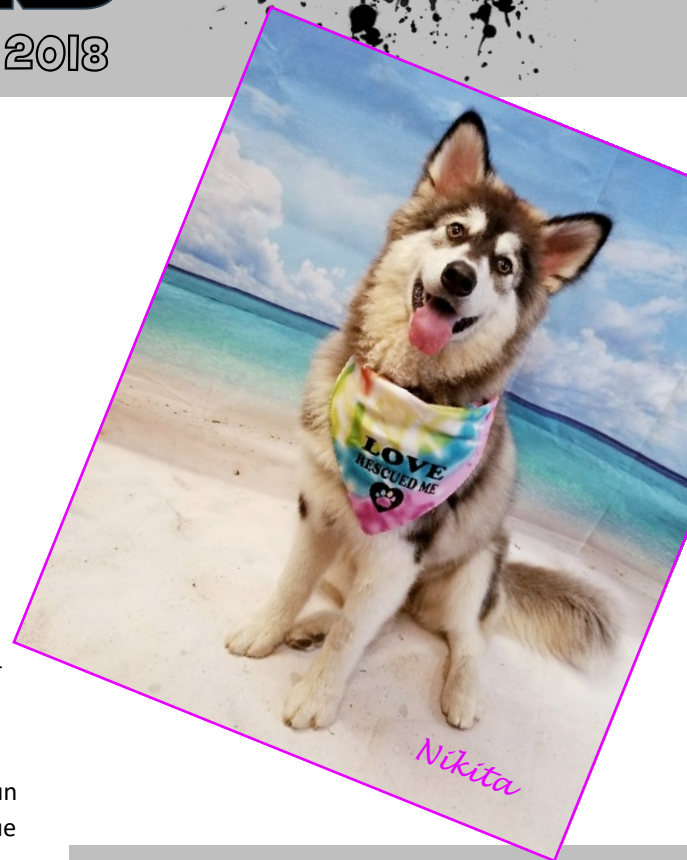
*Tina Dunn*

AMAL President



**Alaskan Malamute Assistance League**

..... *We Pull For Them*



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## AMAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Golden, CO 80403

Visit AMAL on the Internet at  
[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://alaskanmalamuteassistanceleague.org/about-amal/donate>



## Special Donations

May 1 through July 31, 2018

- Donations made by Anonymous Donors via Facebook by NetWork for Good
- In Memory of William "Mick" McCormick, by
  - Orvan Peterson & Joan Chew
  - Scott Stickney
  - Friends at Butler Dog Grooming
- In Honor of all Senior Mals, by Kenneth & Toni Porter
- In Memory of Dr. Tsutomci, by the Alumni Club of the Garushuin School in Japan -San Francisco Chapter Ohyukai

*"His love for his own Alaskan Malamute as his partner should be remembered forever...."*

## 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).





## CBD Oil: Growing in Popularity

With age, our older female Charlotte became quite arthritic. She had difficulty rising, and it had gotten to the point she was howling during the night for help moving to a new position. She'd been to the veterinarian frequently, and we were at the maximum doses of carprofen and tramadol. What to do? Our vet suggested we try CBD oil.

CBD oil is an extract of hemp. Hemp is a type of *Cannabis sativa* plant, as is marijuana. Both contain an assortment of plant-based chemicals called cannabinoids. The two main cannabinoids used medicinally are tetrahydrocannabinolic acid (THC; the psychoactive component of marijuana) and cannabidiolic acid (CBD). Hemp differs from marijuana in its ratio of THC to CBD, the amount of fiber in the stalks, and seed production. Often, chemists (both real and kitchen-counter types) describe THC as psychoactive and CBD as non-psychoactive. CBD does affect the nervous system, but without the typical "high" associated with THC. THC is legal in a few (but growing number of) states. CBD oil is available over-the-counter.



Dog owners are increasingly turning to CBD oil to treat veterinarian-diagnosed illnesses or conditions including seizures, cancer, anxiety, lack of appetite, and arthritis. Regardless, I was skeptical. I'm a pharmacist by training, and I am always wary of medication that hasn't been tested in a robust treatment population. There is little research-based information on the use of medical cannabis for animals. However, several people in the malamute rescue community said they had used CBD oil and their malamutes responded well.

A recent survey asked more than 600 dog owners about their use of CBD oil, and more than 60% of respondents reported moderate to significant symptom reduction. Owners noted that it was particularly helpful with thunderstorm and fireworks phobia, digestive problems, and nausea and vomiting in addition to the conditions identified above. They also noted that they didn't generally see evidence of side effects.

I ordered the CBD oil and gave Charlotte her first dose at 6 PM. I woke the next morning when I heard the golf course workers across the street start the mowers. Total panic!!! I thought, OMG it's 6 AM and Charlotte isn't up! I dashed downstairs, thinking I would find a dead dog. She and Leo were snoozing. And it was 5 AM. The golf course had started early! Regardless, she slept through the night and continued to sleep until 6 AM. Then she got up and demanded breakfast. I was outside gardening with her for a couple of hours, and she got up and down at least 15 times without help. I wondered if it was real or just Charlotte having a good day.

It was real. For the next two weeks, every day was a gift. She rarely needed help and was in much better spirits. Some very old research indicated that dogs seem to have approximately four times the number of cannabinoid receptors that humans do. This may explain why dogs respond well. Note that CBD oil can interact with some seizure medications, so use it with caution if your dog is on a seizure medication.

Sadly, Charlotte suffered some kind of neurologic event on the day after her birthday, and we needed to say an emotionally painful goodbye. But we are grateful for the time we had, and suggest you think about this product if you have a dog in pain.

CBD oil comes in various strengths, and look for a reputable manufacturer. My main complaint: the various CBD product are often poorly labeled so you aren't sure how much CBD you are giving. Ask your vet or other pet owners to recommend brands that seem consistent and effective.

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

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**W**e recently lost our female malamute Charlotte. While it was heartbreaking, she was remarkably old – the oldest malamute we had ever had. Her decline was long and slow, but as is the case with many mammals that live very long lives, she had a brief period of rapid decline at the end.

This story isn't about Charlotte (although you can read a little bit more about her in the story on CBD oil). It's about those of us left behind (Leo, a seven-year-old male malamute, and me), and our dislike for one-dog households. We knew that we needed to find a suitable companion. It had also been seven years since we had introduced Leo to Charlotte, and we were a bit rusty on the process.

We became aware of a three-year-old malamute in a dog pound. She looked very much like Charlotte, with the same caramel coloring and m'loot body style. The Internet profile indicated that she was about 80 pounds, and this sounded good to me since I'm aging. A smaller dog seemed perfect. I made an appointment to meet her, and the staff at the pound was thrilled since placing northern dogs is challenging. She was indeed small, and I was sure she was nowhere near 80 pounds. We made arrangements for Leo to meet this sweet, pretty girl. Their first meeting was uneventful; they ignored each other. We arranged a second meeting and decided that this pup, newly named Adele, was coming home. Leo and I would like to share a few tips about the introductory period – which by the way, is ongoing. Here's what we learned:

(1) *Owners who give up dogs sometimes lie, right?* They reported that Adele had lived with and liked other dogs, and was housetrained. But we learned that she was poorly socialized, had dog-aggressive tendencies, and was not housetrained. She had never been to a vet (so was recently spayed), and had no training whatsoever. And, our veterinarian (who saw her immediately) found Adele actually weighed 62 pounds.

(2) *Caution is the order of the day.* Whenever we've introduced a new malamute to the house, there have been a couple of order-establishing skirmishes. I treat them like I would a seizure; I step back and stay out of it, and count slowly, knowing that generally they pass within seconds. We learned that Adele is quite the persistent Alpha personality, and for everyone's sake, we keep the two dogs separated and will do so until we are quite sure that everyone is safe. They've had a few unexpected skirmishes. Leo, who's 104 pounds, has defended himself and pinned Adele very quickly. She does not particularly care. She is Alpha dog! Sylvia Bailey says it best: "The most common mistake in dog to dog introductions is rushing things. Bringing a new dog into the home of an existing dog is very different than introducing them in a shelter or a park or play yard. 'Un-doing' a dog fight is much harder than separating the dogs and avoiding one initially. Take your time, let the dogs get to know each other slowly over weeks or more before leaving them together unattended. Plan on bringing the new dog home when you can take some time off work. Be home full time for at least a few days and longer if possible."



(3) *Alpha malamutes are Alpha malamutes, period.* Every malamute has a different personality, and the Alpha dog will persist until everyone understands that she (or he) is the dominant dog. Size has nothing to do with it. It is absolutely impossible to change personality. Deal with it. That said, it's important to remember that WE (the humans) are the Alpha in our pack.

(4) *Plan to have more safe spaces than you think you need.* We came home to a large crate, a door that could be closed between the kitchen and the mudroom, and a ½ acre field with a locking gate and double fencing around the perimeter. Three spaces. I closed Adele into the mudroom on the first day, and she was able to reach the windowsill four feet from the floor, scratch her way through the screen, and escape (see above). We closed the window. Within a week she had completely destroyed the crate, and broken the hinges on the door between the kitchen and the mudroom. Within 10 days, this 62 pound dog was able to flatten herself in such a way that she could escape through a 6 inch space between the slats in the gate at the field. We ordered a stronger crate, repaired the gate with heavy mesh, and developed a new safe space (my bedroom). Adele, however, worked her way through the mesh repair at the field, and can only go there if someone is with her at all times. So we're down to two safe spaces: the now-fortified crate and reluctantly, my bedroom.

(5) *Parallel walking is critical, but that takes time, too.* A dog walker and I have walked these two dogs together for four weeks now, and they don't actively skirmish but you have to watch them. At the start of our two-mile excursion, both of them are frisky. By the end, they're tired and seem to tolerate each other. But even this morning, Adele went after Leo. Fortunately, he's getting quite nimble and avoided her lunge.

**Consider reading Patricia McConnell's *Leader of the Pack* which gives tips to show you are the leader. <http://www.patriciamccconnell.com/store/Leader-of-the-Pack-eBook.html>**





*Adele on one of her many breaks*



*Leo*



*Adele, on the lookout for rabbits*

(6) *Pause and listen.* I learned quickly that Adele didn't really know how to tell what she needed so we went into puppy training mode. We scheduled the day tightly so that she knows when to expect to walk and be in the bedroom, the crate, the field, back to the bedroom, the field, the crate, and loose in the house (once she demonstrated that she was trustworthy). Because she now knows what to expect, we have only rare accidents.

(7) *Leave a short leash on the dog's collar.* I'd forgotten about this trick, and Adele herself reminded me. During one of her first excursions to the field where I'd leave her for an hour, she somehow grabbed the leash that was outside the gate and chewed it in half. That short leash on her collar was a handy way to grab her when she was getting into trouble. Initially it was about 12 inches long. Adele herself trimmed it to about seven inches, and it remains on the collar even today.

(8) *Food, toys, narrow places, and affection can be issues.* I'm always amazed when someone tells me they got a new dog and a dog fight broke out when they fed them together. Who feeds unfamiliar dogs together? We are careful to feed the dogs separately, take up all the toys, and be careful in narrow places like doorways or sidewalks with hedges. With these two dogs, however, affection is a real trigger. If one of them is getting affection and the other isn't, the jealousy is simply unbelievable, as is the howling.

(9) *A bath promotes bonding.* Adele reminded us of this one, too. Early on, she rolled in animal scat while out on a walk. She smelled to high heaven. I was going to run her to the groomer, but I didn't really want her in the car. I recalled that

when we first got Charlotte, she had horrible behavior issues and our dog trainer said to bathe her. Adele actually liked the bath, and became a little bit more respectful. And sweet-smelling.

(10) *Establish expectations early.* At first, Adele seemed to be a 62-pound ping-pong ball. She was on the couch, the floor, the chair, the windowsill, and then racing around the kitchen island. We started training the minute she came in the door because we do not have malamutes on furniture in this household. To her credit, she's a very smart girl and is learning very quickly.

(11) *Just when you think you know what to expect, everything changes.* Six weeks into this process, Leo has decided that the crate belongs to him. When it's empty, he makes himself at home. He actually looks ridiculous because he's such a big boy, but it clearly makes him happy. Adele, on the other hand, is able to explore unfettered when he's in the crate, so she's happy also.

(12) *It takes a village.* Introducing Adele to this household has been exhausting. Yet it was no more difficult than introducing Charlotte or Leo when they came to us forever. I'm grateful that I have Sylvia Bailey and Angela Brown to answer questions and give me encouragement. Both of them spent quite a bit of time listening to our issues, and I'm sure rolling their eyes and laughing. They've given me great advice, and anybody who introduces a new dog to a household (and especially a malamute) needs an educated, appreciative village.

*-Jeannette and Leo, with input from Angela and Sylvia*



## **Integrating a New Malamute into the Home**

**(BEWARE. PAWS OF MASS DESTRUCTION)**



## FROSTY PAWS FOR WOO: STRAWBERRY BANANA TREATS

### INGREDIENTS

- 2 over-ripe bananas
- 2 cups fresh or frozen strawberries
- 1 cup nonfat greek yogurt

Combine all ingredients together in blender; blend until smooth  
Pour mixture into silicone ice cube trays and freeze

Recipe Note: These treats will stain floors and carpeting so are best served outside in a shady spot on the lawn. Purchase fun bone- and paw-shaped silicone ice cube trays online.



### AMAL Membership Application/Renewal

July 2018 - June 2019

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

April 1, 2018 – June 30, 2018

#### INCOME

Donations in	
General	\$1473.08
Membership	\$75.00
Other	\$51.26

**TOTAL INCOME** \$ 1,599.34

#### EXPENSES

Christenson Disbursement	\$1705.00
Veterinary	\$1208.46
Professional Fees	\$475.00
Other Expenses	\$32.12

**TOTAL EXPENSES** \$3420.58

**Quarterly Net Income** ( 1,821.24)

**Checkbook balance (as of March 31, 2018)** \$79796.76



### Forgive Them Friday

Sylvia Bailey writes, "This morning I had a little brown 3" round mole hill in my gravel path. This is what I came home to tonight."



## 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!

Unfortunately, AMAL did not have any affiliates with valid adopters who would travel to the show. As a result, there will not be a Rescue Showcase event this year. We still want to honor those affiliates who worked so hard to provide rescue dogs loving homes and families, helped them gain confidence and security, and provided them with medical care, affection and regular exercise. Affiliates have saved these dogs' lives, promoted their well-being, and given them a second chance. AMAL will highlight some affiliate rescue activities over the past year in lieu of the showcase.

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!

**Note new contact:** Send your Sales and Auction donations to AMAL for arrival between September 26 and October 24:

**AMAL**

c/o K. Snavelly

3242 Lorimar Lane

St. Cloud, FL 34772

email: [oksnavely@gmail.com](mailto:oksnavely@gmail.com)

**Look for the upcoming AMAL wine sales on the AMAL website, Facebook page and the Show Facebook site! Delivery will occur at the National Specialty Show on Sunday or Monday.**

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 at the Doubletree Hilton, at SeaWorld in October!

*Sharon Nichols, for AMAL*

*Pictures  
from 2017  
Nationals*





## CHRISTENSON AWARD NOMINATIONS

AMAL is accepting nominations for the Christenson Award, which will be presented the Alaskan Malamute Club of America (AMCA) National Specialty October 29 - November 3, 2018 in Florida. If you have a volunteer who has assisted your affiliate in some extraordinary ways, or a volunteer who has gone beyond the call of duty, please nominate him or her. Prepare a few paragraphs describing what he or she has done to assist you and submit the nomination to the AMAL board secretary, Mike Ulman, at [Windsurf48@comcast.net](mailto:Windsurf48@comcast.net) The Board will select a winner in early September.

### History of the Christenson Award

Drs. Norm and Diane Pomerance established the Award in memory of Betty Christenson's husband Chris. Betty started rescuing in North Texas and then broadened her scope with Chris at her side. He was a quiet presence, walking dogs, fixing coffee for meetings, providing the calm in the storm that was Betty. Chris died of a heart attack while he and Betty were exercising dogs. Betty said, "He never let go of the leash." That was Chris — steady, strong, modest, tireless, kind.

This award's focus is to recognize those who always work, but are seldom in the limelight. AMAL recognizes affiliate leaders in other ways, but the Christenson Award is for volunteers who transport, home check, foster, phone, groom, manage websites, and, in general, quietly serve affiliates. Without our unsung heroes, we could not save the dogs who mean so much to all of us.

Thank you and please reach out if you have questions!



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