

AMAL TALES

August 2024

President's Message

Happy (Nearly!) Fall!

It's been "snowing" at my house as the dogs shed down to their skivvies to begin growing their winter regalia. I told my husband the other day it's nearly time for me to get extra blubbered up for the winter! I love summer, but the rest of my pack is ready for fall. Stage right is my foster boy Dutchie displaying his supernatural cooling skill, his EXTREMELY long tongue. Seriously, where does he put that thing when it's not in use!???

Dutchie is my gentle giant and a very timid boy. While he's made strides in the two years that I've had him, he still struggles with newness or any changes to his routine. He's very affectionate but doesn't know his own strength, I always have to be on my toes when we work on something new. It's been baby steps and I've had to watch for him to be fully comfortable with a new thing before introducing something else. Last year grooming him wasn't something we could do. He has a favorite ball, so I'd throw the ball for him. When he came back to me, I'd praise him and pluck, pluck, pluck hair tufts out. We progressed all the way to Dutchie flopping down and asking for belly rubs. This summer we have been working on the dreaded BLOWER trying to get all his dead hair out. He has a favorite place to lay in the yard, I take him to his comfy place, ask him to lay down, and work him over with the blower, small areas at a time. Not only is the blower good for his skin, it also gives me the opportunity to be able to see if he has any bumps, growths, or skin issues that may need attention. It's been a SLOW process, but very rewarding to see him gain confidence with new things.

Our affiliates have vast experience with working through behavior issues with dogs. If you are struggling with something with your own dog, rescue or otherwise, please reach out. If they aren't able to help, they can definitely get you connected with someone who can.

Cheers to my Dutchie's resilience and progress, and all the others like him!!

Andrea Stern

President, AMAL



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. All donations are fully tax deductible to the extent allowed by law and go directly to helping Alaskan Malamutes. For more information, visit

https://www.paypal.com/webapps/shop/pingcart?flowlogging_id=9f42ed13149d5&mfid=1622130830814_9f42ed13149d5#/checkout/openButton



AMAL Membership Application/Renewal

July 2024 - July 2025



You can easily renew online, too!

<https://www.malamuterescue.org/index.php/membership/>

Name(s): _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Hint: use an address label

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Choose a Membership and/or Subscription

- ☐ \$25 **Individual/Family** (includes AMAL Tales digital quarterly newsletter)
- ☐ \$100 **Benefactor** (includes AMAL Tales digital quarterly newsletter, 4-year membership, Pedigree Database access with updates)
- ☐ \$25 **Benefactor** (includes 1-year renewal with updates)
- ☐ \$30 **Pedigree Database Annual Subscription** only (includes online access for 1-year (no AMAL membership required))

I'd like to make a DONATION



Please find \$ _____ enclosed to help the Mals.
(optional)

- ☐ IN **HONOR** of _____
- ☐ IN **MEMORY** of _____
- ☐ Yes, I'd like to be contacted about helping Alaskan Malamutes in need of assistance
- ☐ My employer will match my donation

\$ _____ **Total amount enclosed (membership + CD subscription + donation (can all be included in 1 check))**

Please make check or money orders payable to the "Alaskan Malamute Assistance League" - no abbreviations, please. Also, please note, international money orders must state "US Dollars".

**Mail to: AMAL Membership
c/o Treasurer
PO Box 7161
Golden, CO 80403**



AMAL AT THE 2024 AMCA REGIONAL & NATIONAL SPECIALTIES

The **AMCA 2024 Regional & National Specialties Show** is scheduled for October 20 through October 26 at the Roberts Center, in Wilmington, Ohio. Cindy Benson is the Show Chair and we're looking ahead to a terrific event! The Great Lakes Region includes Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio. Be sure to add it to your calendars and make immediate plans to attend—rooms are going fast. You can find a link to the details here: <https://www.alaskanmalamute.org/national-specialty>

AMAL hosts a Rescue Showcase, which is a program that honors malamutes that have been successfully adopted in the region. Their dog stories are heartwarming and the dogs and their handlers are wonderful to watch in the showing. The audience is usually very appreciative of our rescue stars.

AMAL typically participates in several annual events in addition to the rescue showcase: pre-sales of our AMAL wines, week-long fundraising at the AMAL table, a demo for the Online Pedigree Database, honoring our AMAL regional affiliates, and presenting some terrific auction items for the Silent Auction. *Thanks for all donors who contribute efforts or donations (or both) for the AMAL swap bags, table or auction sales. and transportation services.*

We will need donations for AMAL's annual fundraising at this event!

Best selling items in the past have included limited edition prints, malamute-related items, Alaskan crafts, dog sleds, Hawaiian shirts with malamutes, soapstone handcrafts, grooming boxes, clothing items, and gift baskets. Be thinking of what treasures you may be willing to part with for the next show.

Please send items for AMAL sales to after September 1 and before October 15 to
AMAL, c/o Cindy Benson, 202 Silverstone Dr., Englewood, OH 45322

The National Specialty is always a fun time to meet up with longtime friends and appreciate this wonderful breed!

Hope to see you there...

Sharon Nichols

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

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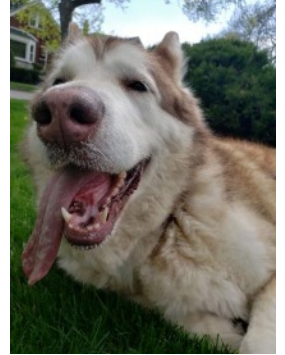
Saturdays with Nova and Sequoia

Kaden McCurdy (age 14)

One Saturday afternoon several months ago, I met Nova and Sequoia. They were the biggest dogs I'd ever seen. They were so excited to go for a long walk in the snow. At first that's all it was. They just wanted their walk and that was that. But over time they've opened up and we've gotten to see the real dogs behind the fluff.

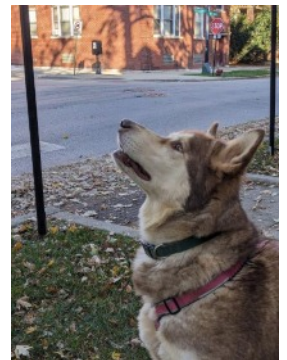


Nova is the dignified older sister. She may be a little ditzzy (Nova! The squirrel went up the tree!) but she's a big sweetheart. Every time we pass another person on the street, she goes up and sniffs them. Usually they either look like they've just bubbled over from cuteness, have been startled by this enormous creature who's just approached them, or they say something along the lines of



"Wow! Are you walking a wolf?" She wishes she could be a lap dog. When we stop to pet her, she melts. She loves to lay in the grass and be loved. She rolls over and curls her giant little paws up and smiles her giant little dog smile. She's licked me a few times and every time she's so gentle. She sticks out a tiny bit of her tongue and there's a little shloop as she licks my nose. A gentle giant, you could say. That being said, she does not allow any disrespect from other dogs, especially small dogs. If we see another dog and it even thinks about saying something to her, she's already on it, giving her best malamute attempt of a bark.

Sequoia is the energized younger sister who still acts like it's the first time she's ever seen a squirrel every single time one scurries by us. She even used to go after birds and butterflies. Butterflies. Sequoia's eyes are constantly darting all over the place as her tail swishes back and forth. Her slobbery tongue is out and seems like it could practically touch the ground. Not that she'd mind if it were. She's been known to drop to the ground suddenly to roll on dirt, mulch, and mummified dead frogs... When she walks, it looks like there's about two times more vertebrae than she should have. She slinks along, moving in four different ways at once. Then she spies a statue. Oh no! She thinks. A lion! And she runs toward the threat only to discover it is in fact not real. Two weeks later, she'll have forgotten her groundbreaking find and have to come to the same conclusion all over again. She's always curious. She's like Jack Skellington in Christmas Town. Similar to Nova, she's a bucket of sunshine to people, but storm clouds tend to roll in when she sees other dogs. She's usually nice when other dogs are nice to her. Otherwise, they must face her whine bark. They all see her and assume she's a big scary dog who's out to get them but really she's just misunderstood.



Spending a few hours with Nova and Sequoia is something I look forward to every weekend. They need a family with a good yard, a sturdy fence, and a big heart.

*IAMRA has had the girls for 4 years now (since fall of 2020).
They would love to find them a home. Contact Vicky Meluso at vicky@iamra.org,*



Northern Lights Sled Dog Rescue Facebook post, August 16, 2024

After more than 20 years helping find loving homes for over 2,700 northern breed dogs, Northern Lights Sled Dog Rescue is going "inactive" and will generally no longer be accepting new intakes. Our officers-Dawn (left) and Julie (right)-along with our other loyal volunteers have donated countless hours to this wonderful cause. It is sadly time to say thank you to everyone including our adopters, donors, sponsors, and supporters, and hang up the leashes. Please understand although technically inactive, we will still occasionally post an adoptable dog as a courtesy post for another rescue or shelter, sometimes post PSA about pet health, and maintain support of our sanctuary dogs living out their lives in foster homes. Should an emergency arise with a previous adoption, we will do anything we can to resolve the situation. Under these circumstances the adopter should still contact Dawn at adoptasleddog@aol.com. Finally we will continue to monitor and maintain this Facebook site so feel free to post your photos of your alumni. We love keeping track of our kids.

How We Learned to Love Malamutes

Holly Levinter

When we moved from Toronto to the country, we wanted the company of a big dog. We went to the SPCA but they had no big dogs. They said they would call us if one came in. The next day a woman called and said, "I hear you want a big dog." She lived a few lines down from us so off we went to see this "big dog."

When we got there, I went over to the dog who said in a deep voice "woo woo". I backed off thinking she was growling. The owner said her name was Keeno and she was talking to us. I approached and she gave me her paw and a kiss. I said, "Take us, we are yours."

While at the vet for a health check, we asked him what she was. He said she was mostly Alaskan Malamute but too big to be a purebred. We didn't care. While grooming I found a tattoo, so I knew she was purebred.

Our farm dogs had always run loose so I figured we needed acreage for Keeno. Oh, what we didn't know...While we were looking for land, we saw a sign saying Alaskan Malamutes. Hmmm. Maybe that was Keeno's breeder. We stopped, I rapped on the door and asked if she had ever heard of Keeno. She said, "I didn't sell her to you." We told her the story; she invited us in and began our education. At that time, Keeno was 7 1/2 years old.

We met Keeno's dam who looked exactly like Keeno, right down to the same grey spots in the same places on her front legs. I've never seen these markings before or since. We were told her color was seal. Slowly we learned about malamutes and their quirky, unique ways.

After about a year, Keeno was howling in agony; she had a ruptured disk. She had surgery and a yearlong painful recovery. About a year later, she ruptured another disk. At her age, we didn't think she would survive another major operation. Broken hearted, we felt the kindest thing was send her over the Rainbow Bridge. We had almost four wonderful years with Keeno.

Since then, we decided to adopt OLD dogs that no one wants. Most people seem to want puppies, not the old dogs. Adopters walk right by, ignoring the old ones who wait patiently for someone to love them. All old dogs want is a kind, loving, home where they can live out their lives in peace and contentment. They are so wonderful and grateful to be loved again. Old dogs are usually somewhat trained but never too old to learn new things.



PACK ON THE POUNDS PUPPY PIZZA

Ingredients

- ½ cup rice or coconut flour
- ½ cup tapioca flour
- 1 tablespoon flaxseed meal
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1 teaspoon dried basil
- 1 cup unsalted chicken broth
- 1 egg

Directions

- Preheat your oven to 350°F. Spray a pizza pan with non-stick cooking spray.
- Whisk together the dry ingredients.
- Whisk the egg in a separate bowl and mix it into the chicken broth.
- Add the broth and egg mixture into the dry ingredients. Stir until the ingredients are fully combined, but try to avoid over-mixing.
- Roll the dough out on a floured surface, or spread it out on the pan to form a smooth, thin crust.
- Bake the crust for 20 to 30 minutes.
- Cover the crust with tomato sauce, cheese, and other tasty bits.
- Place the pizza back in the oven for another 10 to 15 minutes to melt the cheese.



Canine Hemangiosarcoma

Ava Landry

Ms. Landry is a 2026 PharmD candidate at the University of Connecticut



Turkey tail mushrooms



Yunnan baiyao, above and to the left, comes with a red pill to be used only in emergencies.



Hemangiosarcoma (HSA) is a particularly aggressive form of cancer that begins in the cells lining the blood vessels. It primarily appears in two types: visceral (in the organs) and non-visceral (in the skin and muscles). Visceral HSA typically targets internal organs such as the spleen, liver, or heart. Non-visceral HSA affects the skin, tissues under the skin, or muscles. This cancer poses a significant threat to dogs due to its rapid spread and the serious complications it can cause.

The primary treatment for non-visceral HSAs that are confined to a small area is surgery. Surgeons remove the tumor and about an inch of the surrounding skin to reduce the risk of recurrence. After surgery, veterinarians often use chemotherapy to address any residual cancer cells and manage potential spread.

Radiation therapy, although less common, is sometimes used for inoperable tumors or to lessen symptoms such as pain and bleeding. Radiation therapy serves primarily as a palliative (comfort care) treatment to reduce tumor size and improve the pup's quality of life. Electrochemotherapy is another option, combining chemotherapy with electrical pulses to push the drug into cancer cells. This method has shown promise in reducing tumor size and controlling bleeding during surgery.

Chinese herbal treatments may offer additional support in managing hemangiosarcoma. Turkey tail mushroom complex, a traditional Chinese remedy, contains compounds such as PSK and PSP that could enhance the immune system. By boosting the immune response, these compounds might improve the effectiveness of standard treatments. However, turkey tail mushroom complex is not a standalone cure for the cancer.

Yunnan baiyao, another traditional Chinese herbal formula, holds a notable place in managing bleeding associated with hemangiosarcoma. Yunnan baiyao activates platelets in the blood and keeps new blood vessels from forming, which helps control bleeding and supports wound healing. This herbal supplement comes in both capsule and powder forms, so owners can give it to the dog by mouth or apply it to the skin.

Veterinarians frequently use yunnan baiyao to manage conditions like hemoabdomen, pericardial effusion, and nosebleeds. Although the Food and Drug Administration has not approved it for dogs, veterinarians can recommend it off-label. Possible side effects include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and stomach upset. Veterinarians usually recommend using yunnan baiyao with caution, particularly in dogs with liver disease or when it is combined with chemotherapy. The red pill included in the yunnan baiyao package is meant for severe, uncontrolled bleeding and should only be used under a veterinarian's guidance.

Incorporating Chinese herbal treatments like yunnan baiyao and turkey tail mushroom complex into a comprehensive treatment plan for hemangiosarcoma can provide additional support alongside usual therapies. These supplements can enhance overall treatment outcomes and help manage symptoms, but they should always be used under a veterinarian's guidance to ensure they complement rather than replace standard medical interventions.

Old Age Isn't for Sissies

Jeannette Wick



Faith, left, and Leo, right

Adopting a malamute is a deal with the devil. If you're serious about the adoption, you know that at some point, your new friend is likely to become your old friend. You may have to watch as old friend ages, and malamutes don't always age gracefully. That's the situation we face here as our handsome Leo enters his 14th year. Leo has not necessarily been the most intelligent of our malamutes, but he has been one of the absolute silliest. Until he was 10, he could steal a sandwich off the counter in five seconds flat. Recently, he's lost weight although his blood work is absolutely perfect. He has gotten very fussy about what he wants to eat, and he often leaves food in the bowl. What kind of a malamute leaves food in the bowl?

Since a good part of my career was spent dealing with older adults experiencing frailty, it occurred to me that that's probably what we're dealing with here with Leo. Aging is often accompanied by loss of muscle mass, diminished strength, wobbly gait, exercise intolerance, and weight loss. Many dogs experience a similar syndrome to that experienced by humans. Leo, who was a robust and athletic 100 pounds for most of his life, now weighs about 85 and is slowing down.

Digging into the literature about frailty and dogs was an enlightening experience. Expert veterinarians indicate that the best approach is to increase protein and make sure that the dog is consuming or supplemented with essential nutrients. They recommend adding vitamin D supplementation of about 1000 IU per day and also adding omega 3 polyunsaturated fatty acid in the diet or as a supplement. One very well constructed study found that increasing protein intake from meat and dairy products

significantly improved frailty. Exercise is also important because in dogs, as in people, it's use it or lose it.

Other changes in the way that we care for Leo make sense when you think about them, especially since he will often eat half of his breakfast and leave the rest in his bowl. (He's still loving dinner.) Here's what the experts recommend, and a few were new to me:

- Increase protein intake by 1.5 times to 2 times the amount previously provided
- Use great protein sources like whey, egg, and soy products
- Add fish that contains omega-3 fatty acids like herring, mackerel, and salmon
- Feed smaller amounts more frequently throughout the day
- Consider the food's texture, especially if the dog has dental issues
- Warm foods slightly to enhance their aroma and palatability
- Consider hand feeding the dog or elevating the bowl if it helps
- Try interactive feeding toys to increase interest in food, create a little activity, and stimulate thinking skills

Leo is quite the character, and he has made us laugh even though we worry about how little he eats. When he doesn't finish his bowl, we put it on top of his crate. His sister Faith is too short to reach it, but Leo will grab the big metal bowl in his teeth and take it to a quiet place to eat when he feels like it. He does not spill even a molecule of food. (I've been trying to snap a picture of this, but so far no luck.) He's also happy for more homemade chicken and salmon throughout the day as treats. He will eat a homemade Frosty Paw from time to time. And he absolutely adores cheesy oatmeal and cheesy sweet potato, so we've snuck in a little bit of protein there. Unfortunately, he has decided he does not like scrambled eggs. And given a bowl of penne pasta and spaghetti sauce, he licks the sauce off the penne, leaving a bowl of pristine pasta.

Hope these tips can help others!



AMAL REMEMBRANCES

From 2023

Jacqueline "Jackai" Szuhai bred, raised, showed, weight pulled, ran sleds and rescued Alaskan Malamutes at Wolfson Kennels. She also authored the book, "The Trail to the Iditarod." Link: <https://www.draeger-langendorf.com/obituaries/jacqueline-jackai-szuhai/>

Dr. Diane Pomerance, was a Dog Behavior and Grief Recovery Specialist, author, respecter of nature and all living creatures, rescuer of more than 46 dogs. She led and owned the Polaire Media Group and received numerous awards. Former wife of Norm Pomerance.

AMAL PROFIT & LOSS SUMMARY

April 1 through June 30, 2024

INCOME

Donations in	
General	\$650.00
Membership	\$50.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$700.00

EXPENSES

Affiliate Support (Vet and boarding)	\$6777.47
Office expenses and taxes	\$670.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$7447.47
Quarterly Net Gain/Loss	(\$6747.47)
Checkbook balance June 30, 2024)	\$139268.87

PLEASE PAY YOUR ANNUAL DUES!

(Mail the form on page 2, or pay online)

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