

AMRONE Tales

Volume 10, No. 1 Summer 2010

Uniting great dogs with great people

BARKING UP A NEW TREE

At a new location this spring, Bark in the Park offered a pleasant outing for (clockwise from near right) Donald Borek, Rick Westcott, Gary Bennett, Jill Hunter, Matt Fienberg and many malamutes. Story, Page 4.



AMRONE's biggest need: foster care

By Joanne Duval, President

Several times a year people ask me what they might be able to do for AMRONE. My answer is usually, "We can always use people to help screen applications, go look at dogs and transport dogs from point A to point B," and sometimes I mention the real need: foster care.

I mention it last since I know that it is the least likely



thing most people will volunteer to help with. Well, the time has come that I can't mention it last anymore. It is by far our BIGGEST need. For the first time this spring we had to have dogs wait before we could take

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Can you foster? Answer these questions

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them in. If one hadn't been placed by its owner, we would have had to turn down our first dog due to lack of foster homes. Since we are an organization that is built on foster care that is a scary thing.

So here is the pitch. What can you do for AMRONE? My new answer is, "Find one time during the year that you could take in one dog." We need temporary housing for adoptable dogs. When thinking about how and when you can foster a dog, you need to ask yourself several questions:

- **Where do I have the room?**

Basically, you will need a crate and be able to exercise the dog in some way. AMRONE can provide a crate, a kennel run and any other supplies that you will need to get you set up to foster. If you have a fenced yard this would be a bonus.

- **How will my pets and family react?** This is an important consideration. If you have a male mal now, then fostering a female will be the way to go. If you have an older senior dog then taking a puppy that wants to play all the time might not be the thing. A calm older one might do the trick. Your family should all be on board with fostering.

- **What kind of malamute do I want? What can I handle?** Some foster homes like the challenge of a dog that has very little in the way of manners or training. Some like a calm dogs that is very easy. There are different types of fostering.

AMRONE needs foster parents for regular puppies or young dogs, for mals needing medical care or for mals needing some training. We also need long-term foster care for senior dogs. It doesn't mean you have to be able to

foster all of those types; you might just want to foster pups or seniors. But foster parents are needed in all of those categories.

- **When do I have the time?** The time involved depends on the age, training and needs of the foster dog you get. At minimum the dog will need regular exercise, to go to the vet to get a check-up, missing vaccinations and to be spayed/neutered if that is not done already.

You will talk to someone from AMRONE by email or the phone regularly. You also will talk to any serious potential adopters and have them visit the dog when it is convenient to see if they are the right people for the dog. Also you need to consider your vacation, holidays and trips that you have planned and ask for a foster dog at the most convenient time for you to have one.

- **How long will I have my foster dog?** The time involved for our normal dogs is usually from four weeks to

several months. Puppies sometimes move faster, senior dogs sometimes need long-term foster care and special-needs dogs sometimes need extra vet care or training. Sometimes we need somewhere for a dog to go for a week or two while another foster home opens up. Knowing what your time frame is helps us determine if a dog is the right one for you to foster.

- **What's the financial commitment?** When you start fostering we will provide you with our guidelines and let you know how we work before giving you a dog. We provide food, basic supplies, veterinary care, and guidance. You provide the love, training and home. The dog provides you with love, joy and the satisfaction of having saved a life.

Fostering a dog saves a life. It is our biggest need. If you would like to help us by fostering a dog this year, contact me at surrender@amrone.org or call me at 413-258-4089 and we can talk about how you can help.

A mal owner's view of electric fences

Over the years AMRONE has found that electric pet fencing usually is not much of a deterrent to keep mals from escaping. We've had too many calls from frustrated owners regarding the ability of their dogs to run right through it. We even have had dogs turned over to us because they won't stay in it.

If you hear of someone putting in this kind of fence, which is usually underground, you might want to inform the owner about the fence's shortcomings by advising them that:

(1) It does not prevent other dogs from coming into the yard and starting fights. Vets can testify to this after having to stitch up the owners' dogs.

(2) It does not deter wild critters from coming into the yard. This can cause the wild guys to get into trouble with your dog. Also your dog might suddenly forget all about the "fence" being there and in his/her eagerness chase the "varmint" due to either prey drive, territorial prerogative,

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Camp N Pack Weekend

An **Alaskan Malamute Rescue of
New England** Event

October 1 - 3, 2010
Camp Timber Trails
Tolland, MA

It's time for the THIRTEENTH Annual Camp N Pack Weekend. The full flyer with registration form is available on our web site, WWW.AMRONE.ORG.

Camp N Pack may include the following and more:

- Fun, interesting dogs
- Fun, interesting dog people
- Hot, tasty meals
- Fresh air
- Agility equipment
- Weight pulls
- Silent auction
- 10-mile qualifying hike
- Dog videos
- Raffles
- Campfires
- Fenced doggie exercise areas
- Canine Good Citizen testing
- Short casual hikes
- Ice cream buffet
- Rescue parade
- Workshops on agility, obedience, sledding, backpacking, and ski/bike-joring
- Group photos
- Dog games
- AMRONE sweatshirts and T-shirts, and dog goodies available for sale
- Stargazing
- "Gently used" donated dog items available for sale



Please review the flyer on our web site, WWW.AMRONE.ORG, for detailed information about the weekend's schedule, registration form, location, maps and rules.

Newcomers are welcome, including dogs of every breed. Please feel free to copy this page and give it to friends, or post anywhere accessible to fellow dog lovers.

New site to Bark in the Park proves a winner

By Carl E. Hartdegen

The 9th annual Bark in the Park was different.

Not only did it not rain — or even threaten to rain — on May 22 but it was at an entirely different, and in many ways better, venue.

Due to budget constraints, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation did not open Harold Parker State Park so the Berry Pond site used for the first eight Bark outings was not available.

Fortunately for the 24 (mostly) malamutes and their 54 people who attended, organizer Kathy Ferragamo found an alternate site, the 4H fairgrounds in Westford, MA, which worked out very well.

This year's event was sponsored again by Paul Ferragamo and Building Supplies Outlet of Peabody, MA, and staged by Kathy and her husband, Jerry.

The Ferragamos arrived at the fairgrounds about 8 a.m. on Saturday morning and set up with the help of Stephanie Bayliss and other early arrivals for the event.

Kathy said of the new venue, "the covered areas would come in handy if it's a rainy day or if it's a very hot sunny day as there's plenty of shade. Jerry and David had a nice setup in the smaller building for cooking all the food.

"This place didn't have trails like Berry Pond so we couldn't have a hike in it, but there were plenty of areas for people to walk around and explore with their dogs."

Many of the dogs took advantage of the opportunity to meet each other, sniffing noses (and other areas) in mostly friendly encounters between distant cousins while their people took advantage of the

opportunity to see old friends and meet new ones.

For one couple it was an opportunity to meet and evaluate a new member of the family. Rick and Lorraine Westcott had already adopted Shadow, a male malamute rescued by AMRONE, and were considering another.

At Bark they took the opportunity to meet Abby, a year-old bitch fostered by Kathy and Jerry who took her to meet them and Shadow.

Abby didn't go home with the Westcotts that day but, in the end, she was adopted by them.

Lunch was again catered by Jerry and friends and featured the usual hot dogs and hamburgers as well as sausages and chicken with salads on the side and homemade brownies and cookies for dessert.

After lunch there were a couple of organized activities starting with the annual rescue parade.

A parade of adopters led (or were led by) the dogs they have given forever homes in front of the assembled crowd where Kathy read the salient facts about their life and adoption and Stephanie and Sue Millman were waiting to greet them with a packet of goodies.

After that, Judith Graves offered a demonstration of obedience skills with her 11-year-old Pooka, the 23rd Alaskan malamute to ever earn a Utility Dog title.

The perennially popular teacup auction was not omitted from this year's Bark and the prizes again were predominantly dog oriented, including several pieces of agility equipment.

Gravel-voiced volunteer Donald Borek was pressed into service again to announce the winners of the raffles and walked away with a couple of

prizes himself.

Stephanie reports that the auction brought in \$315, the sale of AMRONE shirts, sweatshirts and other items garnered \$181 and an additional \$2,175 was donated.

In addition, since the event was sponsored by Paul Ferragamo, the \$540 realized in registration fees also is included in a total of \$3,211 raised at Bark to further the efforts of AMRONE to rescue and support malamutes in New England.

ON THE MONEY TRAIL WITH AMRONE

(January – December 2009)

Income

Adopter	\$1350
Apparel Sold	\$20
Bark in the Park	\$5707
Donor – General	\$8166
Camp N Pack	\$8251
Interest	\$328
Total Income	\$23,822

Expense

Boarding	\$1462
Camp N Pack	\$3965
Bark in the Park	\$94
Insurance	\$1074
Shelter fees	\$225
Microchips	\$19
Office Supplies	\$57
Printing / Reproduction	\$1126
Shipping	\$130
Pet Supplies	\$244
Postage and Delivery	\$411
Promotions / Education	\$207
Grooming	\$110
Veterinary Costs	\$2422
Web cost	\$111
Total Expense	\$11,657
Net Income	\$12,165

Meet Our Fosters



The dogs on these pages were in foster care as of the middle of July. To learn more about them, new dogs that AMRONE has taken in, or to fill out an adoption application, please visit our web site at WWW.AMRONE.ORG.

I am Molly, a 5-year-old spayed female black and white malamute. I have had a great first five years but I am now looking for a new home. I am housetrained and love to be with my people. I also am good in a fenced yard. I am about 92 pounds and have some exuberance. I like to play and run. I have a very soft, fluffy coat and have lived with other dogs. I would like a home that has time and attention for me. If you are interested in me please go to the AMRONE website. At the time of this publication details were being worked out for me to come into foster care.



We are the newest AMRONE puppies — a brother (left) and sister. We came to AMRONE because our backyard breeder could not find homes for us. People came to look at us but we were older pups (We had just turned 6 months old) and we had no vaccinations so nobody would buy us. AMRONE agreed to take us in and we are now in separate foster homes learning to live

without each other and all kinds of new things! We are meeting lots of new people, going for car rides and walking on a leash. We are having our vet care updated, are learning about housetraining and being spayed/neutered. Wow, we are busy! We will be available for adoption soon so if you are interested please go to the AMRONE website and fill out an adoption application.

AMRONE extends its sympathies for the loss of these beloved friends.



Chunk, loved by Carol and Steve DellaGiustina

Casey, loved by Sherry Spangler

Timber, loved by Jeff and Terri Heaton

Cheku, loved by David Johnstone and Karen Hiickey

Hildy, loved by Ginny and John Rivielle

Klondike, loved by Jeremy and

Adrienne Bock

Amaki, loved by Chip Conner

Kojack, loved by Ken Clark

Cherokee Storm and Sasha, loved by Barbara and Gary Bennett

Keesha, loved by Wayne Ubrich

Tovah, loved by Kristen & Mike Albaneze

Shelby, loved by Lisa & Robert Klukas

Pet insurance more popular as bills climb

Has pet insurance made much of a difference when owners have to pay up at the vet? Have you gotten any feedback from people?

Pet insurance is becoming more popular since fees are going through the roof. My father was a general practitioner who loved medicine and his patients. He never had a secretary or any office help. He never had to submit bills to insurance. He retired when it was starting and he didn't want to work for an insurance company.

I've done the same in veterinary medicine. I probably had to submit bills to insurance twice. Many years ago a client said he probably should have insurance for his dog. He and I looked at his record. At that time insurance companies paid only for other than routine visits. In 10 years his dog was seen only once other than routine. The pet had been in an auto accident. His bill was \$110.00. He would have paid \$800 in premiums over 10 years and had \$100 deductible. He would have received \$10.

It was never worthwhile for my clients to have insurance, but I was a dinosaur. I hear bills now in the thousands and there are a half dozen insurance companies in business now. I'm sure these can be found on the internet or contact the American Veterinary Medical Association in Schaumburg, Ill. to get their recommendations.

Our 8-year-old male malamute has a cloud over a quarter of each



eye, which we were told were cataracts that require surgery. Are there any other less expensive

treatments?

Sounds suspicious. A cataract is a disease of the lens. When you look at an eye you see the colored iris - brown, blue, hazel, etc. The black dot in the middle is the pupil. This is really not a structure but a hole in the iris. It looks black because the rear half of the eye is in darkness or "red eye" in your flash pictures.

What you normally don't see is the lens, which is just behind the iris. It's like a clean window, which you can't see. As a dog gets older the lens begins to harden and gets a slight frosted appearance. This is nuclear sclerosis. If some disease or injury occurs causing the lens to crystallize - that is a cataract. The cornea (surface of the eye) and iris (colored portion) would look normal but the pupil would be cloudy or snow white.

When you say "cloudy over a quarter of each eye" I suspect you are talking about some corneal change or collection of material in the anterior chamber (between the cornea and iris). I would get an accurate diagnosis from a veterinary ophthalmologist and he will be able to give you all the treatment possibilities, surgical or otherwise. If a dog does have a cataract in one eye making that eye blind; remember, both eyes are a luxury, one eye is a necessity before you spend that money.

Dr. Robert Tremblay, VMD, is retired after 35 years of practice at the Marion (MA) Animal Hospital.

Visible fence is superior

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boredom or just the fun of it. Then poof, he is out and free.

(3) It can malfunction, (or the batteries get low) and the owners don't know because they don't wear those heavy collars.

(4) It doesn't prevent dogs being stolen, even when owners are at home

(5) It doesn't prevent an ordinarily electric fence-abiding dog from panicking and running out of the area (think thunderstorms and firecrackers).

(6) Lastly, visitors (invited or otherwise) are very easily intimidated by a barking dog in an underground fenced yard because they can't see the fence and don't necessarily trust the warning sign.

Safe alternatives:

A fenced yard with real fencing material, a chain link kennel or a leash.

Bugs be gone!

Here is an easy homemade recipe from the internet for keeping mosquitoes off dogs. This natural insect repellent will last for about three weeks when refrigerated.

Rind of 1 lemon, 1 orange, 1 grapefruit, 1 lime
Handful of fresh rosemary and/or lavender (a scant Tablespoon if using dried herbs)
1 quart boiling water

Gather rinds and herb(s) in a heat-resistant container. Pour boiling water over ingredients. Let steep overnight. Strain through cheesecloth into mister/spray bottle. Refrigerate.

Mail Call

Letters and photos from adopters



I wanted to let you know that I am doing great and I love my new home very much. Mom and Dad are really nice, I like my new brother Shadow and he likes me. Shadow is an AMRONE dog too so we have a lot in common.

It is really fun having a big brother. We play a lot but sometimes he gets tired before I do. When that happens Mom and Dad will take me outside in the yard and throw the ball for me. I am pretty sure they are trying to tire me out and give Shadow a rest.

We get lots of rubs and hugs and kisses from Mom and Dad; they tell us what good kids we are and that they love us very much. Sometimes I might have chewed something or dug a big hole; I don't know how but Mom always knows it was me. Mom or Dad shows me what I did wrong and tells me that it was naughty and I do my best not to do it again. Dad and Mom keep a close eye on me and Mom says I am behaving much better.

We have a big yard to play and run around in and a dog door that goes right into the house — I love that! Dad and Mom take us out for walks three times a day. At 5 in the morning we have our first walk of the day with Dad. I love it because I get to sniff out



Shadow, left, and Abby

everything that happened in the neighborhood while I was sleeping. I stick close to Shadow because he knows where the best sniffs are. I think my dad is great.

When Mom and Dad get home from work we go out for our big walk of the day. Dad always brushes our fur before we go and Mom tells us we look beautiful. We go to lots of different places on our walks so we never get bored. Lately Mom and Dad have been taking us down to the beach by the river. At first I wasn't sure about that but then I saw how much Shadow loves to walk in the water and now I love it too. Once I even

got my belly wet and Dad told me I was a very brave girl. There are lots of people at the river and everyone always says how beautiful we are.

We have our last walk of the day around 7:30 at night. We walk around the neighborhood and see if any of the other dogs are out and sometimes we stop and visit. This usually goes very well but there is this female husky and we don't really like each other so much. Mom and Dad are hoping that will get better because the husky and Shadow are in love with each other and Shadow cries if we don't stop for a visit.

One of my favorite times of the day now is after our last walk when we do training. At first I thought it was just a big pain but now I am pretty good at it and I kind of like it. I can sit, shake hands, do a down, stay, and come when called from a stay. I learned a lot from watching Shadow; he is really good at training and Mom and Dad are proud of me when I do a good job.

I have to go now, thank you very much for taking me in and being so good to me and for finding me my forever home. I am very happy.

— Abby



Zeke

Hey, I just wanted to let you all know how Zeke is doing. He's a great addition to the family; he's just full of energy and fun. He and Cassie have become great pals, I'll send photos to show you. We've been

swimming and hiking with him and he loves it. I've been working on more sessions with our trainer but we've had some scheduling issues but he's done great with everything so far and I hope to get in a class this fall.

We discovered that tennis balls and a regular stick are his faves; we're doing a lot of fetch. We also hope to build a good-sized fenced-in area here in the yard so he's got running room for fetch. Unfortunately I can't use the place I used to take Cass to work — it's been removed. He's gotten better about getting his nails done and his baths and the brushing. Of course they're both blowing their coats.

— JoAnn

Our darling Mandy continues to be a delight.

When we adopted her a year ago, she was 10 pounds overweight. Although her health was good, lab results showed slightly abnormal thyroid and liver-function values. The white on her paws and throat was stained red from compulsive foot-licking.

Mandy just had a full physical. Her weight is now correct, and all lab results are ideal. Because she no longer licks, her paws and throat are white. She will turn 13 in October but could easily pass for 7 or 8.

Mandy is so friendly and gentle that she makes friends everywhere and is a particular favorite with neighborhood children. We are very grateful to AMRONE for our perfect dog.

— Susan & Carter

ALASKAN MALAMUTE
RESCUE



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Have a new address? Notify us at info@amrone.org

AMRONE TALES

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Mail Call

Letters and photos from adopters

I wanted to touch bases with you again; this is Lisa and Geoff, Yukon's owners in Colorado. (We got him from Carolyn and Al in Hudson, NH.)

So the last update was to let you know we celebrated nine years with Yukon. We just had his 11th birthday and he is doing fine with exception of some thyroid issues and hair loss by the tail and undercoat that we are rectifying with thyrosin and natural treatments. We celebrate 10 years with him in a couple weeks.

But this email is to spread some amazing news!

Yukon has been selected to grace the 2010 COVER of the AAA Pet Travel Guide Book! This will be on all major bookstore racks (Barnes and Noble, Borders, Walden, Amazon, etc.) in early February 2010. Isn't that so exciting! I hope they tell the story I wrote that he is a rescue from AMRONE.org. If not the book, it might make the web site and the AAA newsletter. I will let you know. He won \$ 400 in cash (which is like \$2800 in dog money, LOL) and \$150 dollars in Best Western gift certificates along with five copies of the book. We are sooooo excited!

I am attaching the photo I took and ironically enough, we just made our way back from this same location a couple weeks ago. We took Yukon up to Acadia, ME, again this summer to these same rocks, took him windjamming and to his favorite dockside restaurant for lobster tails and scallops – 6,050 miles in 15 days, all so we



Yukon the cover dog

could take Yukon. We used much of our vacation days on the road and worked seeing clients at home while my mom, his grandmother, watched him during the days.

I cannot thank the Alaskan Malamute Rescue League enough for blessing our lives with such an amazing dog, friend, companion and spirit. We will love him forever. I plan to contact Acadia papers letting them know that their famous Otter Cliffs won a dog on the front page of the AAA book and will play the AMRONE.org site as much as I can. I will also be doing the same here in Durango, CO, when we do our best to get his announcement in the paper. You gotta brag when this happens! LOL!

P.S. Yukon now has a dogbook account with Facebook. What a crazy but fun site!

— Lisa