

# AMRONE Tales

## Welcome to the premier issue

P...

...is for premier. You are holding vol. 1, no. 1 of what is expected to be a semiannual newsletter of AMRONE, at least at first. I think it's amazing. Most of the words and photos were produced by amateurs whose paramount contributions are a love of malamutes and the desire to be a part of this publication.

You, too, can be a part; in fact, I hope you will. This is by and for AMRONE participants, after all, and if you have something to offer, step right up. This newsletter will be only as good as you make it.

Inside you'll find stories and photos about adopters, rescued dogs, news to use, dates to remember — things that are interesting, fun and informative. I hope you enjoy it.

— Robert Mellen, editor

**VOLUME 1, NO. 1**

### What's inside

- A message from the president ..... p-2
- Tovah — an adoption success ..... p-3
- The dog who ate the evidence ..... p-5
- Heartworm, the stealthy killer ..... p-7

## Camp N Pack: a weekend in the woods with malamutes

**By Jeannine Theriaque**

Camp N Pack 2000 began on a Friday with a 10-mile qualifying hike at People's State Forest in Barkhamsted, Ct. about a half-hour from the campsite. Mark Anderson and Kianna once again led this year's hike on a crisp sunny day. As Mark discussed the park's history he was joined by a hardy group of hikers that included malamutes, samoyeds, and a cattle dog that believes he is a malamute!

Meanwhile back at camp, a core group of volunteers worked hard to set up the campsite and organize the activities for the next two days. As people arrived they checked in and were escorted to their tent site or

cabin area. Everyone gathered at dinnertime to enjoy pizza and salad in the dining hall, which also served as the registration center, complete with malamute education materials, pictures of past Camp N Packs, videos, AMRONE T-shirts and tables displaying the various auction items for people to browse over.

Many people did arrive on Friday night so they wouldn't miss any of Saturday's activities, which began at [Continued on Page 4]



Getting into the spirit, these two campers are ready to enjoy the weekend with their dogs.

# A message from the president

**By Susan Conant**

**A**laskan Malamute Rescue of New England originated in individual efforts to save the lives of malamutes on death row in pounds and shelters. When I first became involved in rescue more than 10 years ago, the network in New England was small indeed; it consisted of Jan and Rocky Smith in Connecticut, Pat Smith in Western Massachusetts, and Terry Hawley in Eastern Massachusetts.

I was hardly a promising addition. I owned my first malamute, Natasha. My only qualification was the determination that if I could do anything about it, nothing bad would ever happen to a dog like her. With the support of national rescue,

malamute rescue in New England developed, one person at a time, into a genuine network. Eventually, every New England state had a coordinator. Very gradually, those coordinators found wonderful volunteers who offered to evaluate dogs and even to provide foster care.

As support for rescue grew, many of us recognized the need to establish a treasury and otherwise to formalize our network. I even went so far as to obtain the forms needed to file for incorporation and for status as a public charity and a 501 (c) (3) corporation. Reading the applications was beyond me; I had no idea how to fill them out. I twice found lawyers who seemed willing to help with the legal matters. One referred me to a

famous and expensive Boston law firm. The other told me that filing for 501 (c) (3) status would cost me about \$10,000. Those same application forms were no mystery to Stephanie Bayliss, who not only filled them out, but found a lawyer willing to review them. In March of 1998, Alaskan Malamute Rescue of New England, Inc., received a letter from the Internal Revenue Service informing us that our application for 501  
*[Continued on Page 6]*



Susan Conant and pal

## AMRONE calendar for 2001

### **Saturday, June 2 - Sunday, June 3**

1<sup>st</sup> Annual Dog Expo

PetsMart, Rt. 114, Danvers, MA  
Money raised during this event benefits Pawsafe Animal Rescue and Alaskan Malamute Rescue of New England, Inc.

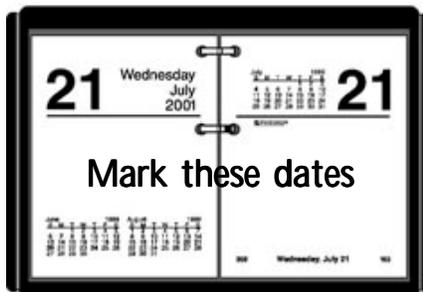
AMRONE volunteers will be staffing a table. Come say hello and join in the fun!

### **Friday, June 22 - Sunday, June 24**

PetsMart United for the Paws  
PetsMart, Rt. 126, Bellingham, MA  
PetsMart, Rt. 114, Danvers, MA  
AMRONE volunteers will be staffing tables at both stores. Come say hello!

### **Sunday Aug. 12, 12 - 5 p.m.**

Pet Rock 2001  
Hebert Candy Mansion, Rt. 20  
Shrewsbury, MA  
AMRONE volunteers will be staffing a table. Come say hello!



### **Sunday, Sept. 9, 12 - 4 p.m.**

Milford Humane Society Seventh Annual Walk for Animals  
Fino Field, Milford, MA  
AMRONE volunteers will be staffing a table. Come say hello!

### **Friday, Oct. 5 - Sunday, Oct. 7**

Camp N Pack  
Tolland, MA  
This is AMRONE's big one. A weekend in the woods with your dogs. Everybody come!

### **Monday, Oct. 29 - Sunday, Nov. 4**

2001 Alaskan Malamute Club of America National Specialty  
Ramada Plaza Hotel, 12201  
Ridgedale Drive, Minnetonka, MN

### **Saturday, Nov. 24**

New England Alaskan Malamute Specialty  
Eastern States Exposition, Springfield, MA

This event runs all day — conformation showing and a weight pull. Dinner will follow at the Monte Carlo restaurant. Anyone who would like to help with the rescue booth or with the weight pull should contact Joanne Duval.

For more information on these events, contact:

Stephanie Bayliss, (508) 533-8702, or sbayliss@telocity.com

Joanne Duval, (413) 258-4089, or hcmalamute@aol.com

## Consistent voices helped Tovah adapt to new owner

By Greta Holman

Tovah came into my life on Feb. 10, 2000. I believe she is probably a reincarnation of Houdini. But I get ahead of myself.

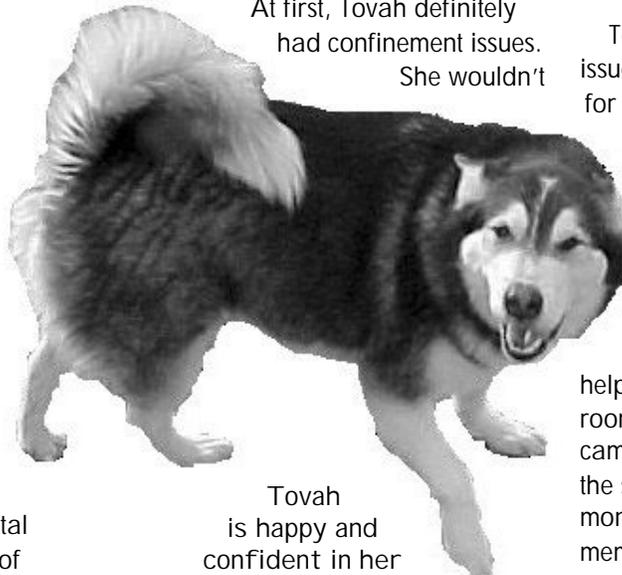
I used to have malamutes when I lived in Wisconsin. When I moved to Massachusetts, I became active with AMRONE and eventually got a home and yard that would support a malamute again. I told Susan and others that I was looking for a mal that would get along with two cats. We heard from a rescue volunteer in Atlanta that they had rescued a mal, called Sasha. She was currently in foster care with both dogs and cats, and they sent me a picture. The picture was of a female asleep on a couch with a coon cat. I couldn't resist.

After seeing the picture, I decided to rename her Tovah, Hebrew for "good." Tovah was sent on a Continental flight from Atlanta as a piece of cargo in the cargo bin, in a loaner

crate. When the plane arrived in Providence and they opened the cargo bay, the crate was at one end and Tovah was walking around the other.

I walked her to my van and drove back to Provincetown, MA, with Tovah spending half of her time sitting up in the middle seat watching where we were going, and the rest of the time standing next to me with her head in my lap. I was in love.

At first, Tovah definitely had confinement issues. She wouldn't



Tovah is happy and confident in her adopted home.

stay in a crate and made her paws bloody trying to escape a 10-by-12-foot kennel. Once I left her in my house when I went to work when none of my roommates was home. I came home 3½ hours later to be met outside by my Houdini pup. There was not a single mini-blind, window sill or door in a two-story home left untouched. She had climbed on a table by one locked window (which tilts to clean), forced it to tilt in, and had broken out through the screen.

To work through the confinement issue I'd go outside, wait out of sight for 10 minutes and then come back and say, "I'm home." Days later I went to a store for 20 minutes and returned with the same "I'm home." I continued to lengthen the time away until I was gone for a half a day.

One of the things that really helped was the fact that both of my roommates left for the winter. One came back after three months, and the second came back after five months. This reinforced to her that members of her pack can leave and

*[Continued on Page 7]*

## How can you help? Be a foster volunteer

AMRONE always has a need for homes where rescue dogs can get care. Many rescue groups spend a large amount of money keeping dogs in boarding kennels. We are incredibly lucky in New England to have many wonderful people who foster malamutes. Lots of different folks have been or are foster volunteers; some are malamute breeders, some are owners of boarding kennels, some are individuals who have space for a rescue dog. This saves AMRONE from having to pay boarding costs for rescue dogs; therefore the funds raised in rescue can go toward the care of the dogs.

What's required to foster a dog for rescue? Time, energy, space and, most important, some love and attention. Foster volunteers should be familiar with mals, and be comfortable dealing with a strange dog.

A kennel and/or crate for each foster dog is required, but can be provided by AMRONE. Homes with small children are not acceptable for foster care.

Foster volunteers must be able to coordinate and transport a dog to their own vet for standard care and vaccinations. AMRONE pays for all veterinary care for the rescue dogs.

Foster volunteers must be capable of evaluating a dog in temperament, training and behavior, and help with evaluating potential adoptive matches for "their" dog.

A question often asked is "How do you give up the foster dog after you have cared for it and become attached?"

Yes, foster volunteers do become attached to dogs in their care. No, it's not always easy to let go. However, the knowledge that you helped save the dog, and gave it a new life and a new loving home makes it much easier.

# Camp N Pack: fun and \$5,500

[From Page 1]

8 a.m. with a hot breakfast of home fries, eggs, toast, French toast, bacon, sausage, cereals, fruit and hot and cold beverages. Believe me, no one went hungry all weekend thanks to Chef Eric and Chef Arnie who prepared all the meals.

At 9 a.m. Mark led another 10-mile hike from camp through the Tolland State forest. The rest of the day's activities included a backpack workshop, a short hike, a doggie swim, a sledding workshop, a weight pull workshop, an agility workshop and after-lunch workshops that included obedience work, Tellington Touch, clicker training and Canine Good Citizen testing. For anyone not wanting to attend the formal workshops they were able to explore the camp, use the agility equipment, let their dogs play together and do a variety of other activities.

Games were held for the dogs and their owners. Oh, this was fun! We had costume contests, Mummy making, popcorn catching, tail wagging, most talkative, and a limbo contest. After the games Susan Conant was host for a parade of many of the rescue dogs.

Dinner began with hors d'oeuvres as the aroma of turkey wafted in the air. Everyone helped with the serving of turkey, stuffing, peas, mashed potatoes, gravy, salad, rolls, glazed carrots and cranberry sauce. For dessert — make-your-own sundaes!

When tables

## Get ready for Camp N Pack 2001

It is that time of the year again when you will be receiving your invitation and registration form for the biggest malamute event in New England. Its not a dog show, not a weight pull, not a sledding event, not a hiking trip — it's Camp N Pack! If you have attended a Camp N Pack weekend you probably are all set to pack your clothes and your dog and join us for the 4<sup>th</sup> annual weekend. If you have not yet been able to attend, this should be the year.

Organized and run by its participants, this year's Camp N Pack will be held Oct. 5, 6 and 7. It will take place again at the peak of the fall foliage season at Camp Timber Trails in Tolland, MA.

were cleared, the infamous auction began, again with Mark Anderson as our esteemed auctioneer with his lovely assistants Roger and Bonnie. There were numerous items such as mittens knitted with malamute fur, books, wine, posters, dog items, dog backpacks — too many to mention. The auction concluded with a drawing for a dog sled package.

Sunday started with another great breakfast followed by an official weight pull run under AMCA rules and agility run-throughs. After lunch everyone pitched in to clean up the

camp. At the end the camp looked spotless and you would have never known that more than 93 people attended with at least 95 dogs. The dogs were represented by mals, yorkies, boxers, German shepherds, greater Swiss mountain dogs, Siberians, West Highland terriers, Airedales, Australian shepherds, Australian cattle dog, bulldog, samoyeds, and mixed breeds.

Twenty-seven were rescue dogs. Thirty-five people hiked on the hikes and the dogs earned 10 legs toward their hiking certificates. Seven dogs earned canine good citizen certificates.

With all the hard work and dedication of all involved in this volunteer weekend, Camp N Pack 2000 earned \$5,500 for AMRONE. This money will be used to help fund the vet care, spaying and neutering and other associated costs of rescuing our beloved malamutes and finding them new homes.



Kodi takes his first tentative steps in his introduction to weight pull. Owner Bob Mellen tempts him with treats.

# Sorry, chief, but you see, my dog ate the evidence

**By Corinne Zipp**

Mals have a long history of ingesting the most amazing things. Perennial favorites include socks, underwear, remote controls and generally anything intriguing not under lock and key. Until Kubota, I would have said anything intriguing not under cover. Since Kubota, I've learned that locks and keys are wonderful inventions.

Kubota is an almost 2-year-old rescue mal from Alaskan Malamute Rescue of Ohio. Linda Smith recognized that the mal she had rescued and dubbed Blue Jeans was a special guy, a gentle giant who had captured her heart. Linda was smitten with Blue Jeans and described his personality perfectly except for one detail. She didn't tell me that she had rescued an extremely competent burglar and

closet drug user.

Many criminals try the "geographic cure" — moving to a different area to get a fresh start in life. Now that he had been rescued and moved to Maine, his chances for a law-abiding life seemed secure. He assumed a new name: Kubota. He even moved in with a parole officer with a full-time grandmother to watch over him.

Within a few weeks, however, his previous life of crime became apparent. Interior door locks that had not worked in 20 years were replaced and exterior ones were used consistently. Otherwise, anyone attempting



Kubota and a marijuana bong, one of his toys.

to shower would discover that they had been robbed of their clothing, towels, slippers and toiletries.

Heavy sleepers leaving a door unlocked would awake to the sight of

*[Continued on Page 7]*

## IN MEMORIAM



Shamu, 1993-2001, beloved pet of Sharon Nichols and Paul Ganci. Goodbye, good friend.

# \$\$\$

## On the money trail with AMRONE

(January - December 2000)

### INCOME

Camp N Pack	\$8345
Adopter fees	\$4100
General Donations	\$3557
Promotion / Education Tables	\$711
AMPL reimbursement	\$458
Clothing	\$426
Owner Turn-in	\$325
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$17,922</b>

### EXPENSES

Veterinary Costs	\$9344
Camp N Pack	\$2701
Clothing	\$569
Promotion / Education Tables	\$390
Insurance	\$321
Pet Supplies	\$272
Postage	\$258
Airline Shipping	\$236
Printing	\$151
Office Supplies	\$75
Grooming	\$65
Licenses and Permits	\$35
Bank Charges	\$31
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$14,448</b>
<b>NET PROFIT</b>	<b>\$3474</b>

# Rescue organization has made impressive progress

[From Page 2]

(c) (3) status had been accepted. AMRONE is a public charity in Massachusetts. We have an insurance policy. Donations to AMRONE are deductible. Because of Stephanie, our organizational goals have been accomplished.

Meanwhile, the Internet and the World Wide Web had become essential parts of effective breed rescue. No sooner had the idea of an AMRONE Web site emerged than Paul Ganci had our site up and running. He and Matt Fienberg, our techno-wizards, continue to maintain our site and to make improvements in it and in the AMRONE e-mail list that helps us to communicate with almost everyone in our network.

Years ago, when the newsletter of San Francisco's Bay Area Siberian Husky Rescue/Referral appeared in my mailbox, I used to read with awe and envy about the events and activities of that club. I felt the same way about the Pack and Pull weekends and other events held by Canada's malamute rescue organization, HELP. With generous support from many AMRONE volunteers, Joanne Duval created exactly such an annual event right here and made it a tremendous success. This fall, we will hold our fourth Camp N Pack weekend in Tolland, MA. Don't miss it!

In many other areas, too, we have made impressive progress. In fact, AMRONE has become a model for malamute rescue groups throughout

the country. Despite the many changes in malamute rescue in New England over the years, certain qualities have characterized our rescue efforts from the beginning. Our traditions are, I suspect, something that new volunteers take for granted. First, as is not the case in some parts of the country, we in New England work together to help our wonderful breed. In particular, we enjoy the luxury of having no animosity between breeders and rescue people. On the contrary, in New England, the distinction does not exist. AMRONE volunteers are people who care about this breed. And that's that.

Second, we have a happy tradition of begging for help. In New England, we never hesitate to recruit new volunteers, ask for foster care, and otherwise holler and scramble to help our dogs. Third, we are unusually eager to teach new volunteers and are wonderfully supportive of anyone dealing with pressure. No AMRONE volunteer ever has to make a difficult decision all alone.

Fourth, we encourage personal relationships with applicants and adopters; intuition and individual judgment count here. Until our Web site included an on-line application form, I never used any form at all for applications; rather, I felt strongly that I wanted to talk at length with anyone who was thinking of adopting a malamute. Did I grill people? Oh, yes. I still do. Our tradition of personal relationships and intuition also extends to decisions about who has the privilege of adopting a rescue

malamute. Incredible though it may seem to us, there are rescue groups that issue orders to foster-care providers about who will adopt dogs. In New England, a person fostering a malamute has always had control over where that dog goes.

As AMRONE grows, I hope that we maintain these traditions. I hope that we will continue to work together, to ask for help, to support one another, and to know our adopters and trust our own intuition and the intuition of other volunteers about what constitutes an appropriate home for every rescue malamute.

We have achieved many goals. What are our new ones? What do our dogs need? First, although this is one of the strongest malamute rescue groups in the world, we still need help. Specifically, a small number of people still do most of our foster care. We must find ways to distribute the work. Second, I am convinced that we never hear about many needy malamutes turned in to shelters or given away by owners. We must find ways to find those dogs. Third, the success of Camp N Pack means that this event is becoming not only larger and more fun each year, but more work, too. I hope that everyone who plans to attend this year's Camp N Pack will volunteer well ahead of time to take responsibility for one of the many tasks required to make the weekend a success.

Finally, let me say that I take unbounded pride in AMRONE and feel love beyond measure for everyone who helps to save our dogs.

F Y I

AMRONE has officially served 35 dogs so far this year. This does not count the hours of phone calls and advice given to owners who are having problems with their dogs.

AMRONE has provided spaying and neutering, vaccinations, heart-worm testing, heartworm preventative, microchipping and hip X-rays when appropriate on all dogs in its care.

F Y I

# Test your dog for heartworm

By Dr. Steven Teisch, DVM

At this time of year it is important to take a minute to think about updating your pet's vaccination record. One of the most important updates that you can make is to have your dog tested for heartworm disease.

Canine heartworm disease, so named because the adult worms live in the heart, is a common and often fatal problem in dogs, other animals, and man. It is spread by the ordinary mosquito and is found wherever mosquitoes breed. It is important to understand the life cycle of the parasite in order to understand its prevention and treatment.

Infection in the dog begins when larvae from an infected mosquito are deposited in the dog's skin after a bite. They burrow into the dog, undergoing several changes that

## So *that* explains the happy grin

[From Page 5]

a 100-plus-pound Malamute sharing their bedroom or even their bed. Crates and doorknobs posed no challenge.

Despite this, I never suspected that Kubota could burglarize a filing cabinet. Until the evening we found him contentedly snoozing, that is. Because Kubs does not contentedly snooze anywhere for very long, the thought, "What's wrong with this picture?" occurred to us. But this dog was both happy and snoozy. His tail would wag each time we checked on him and, if anything, his grin was even wider than usual. This was a very happy, contented, lazy mal. This is also when his grammy discovered the box near Kubota.

Its cloying scent reminded me where I had seen it: in my filing



eventually lead to the development of small adult worms. This process takes three to four months. The worms then migrate to a vein and into the heart where they live and reproduce.

The offspring, called microfilaria, must then go into the secondary host, the mosquito, to continue the life cycle.

As the adult worms grow and reproduce, they enter the pulmonary arteries, the right ventricle, large veins of the heart, and the liver. This clotting can lead to loss of lung function and heart failure.

Many infected dogs will not

cabinet where I keep evidence taken in parole searches. Now empty, the box had been filled with the ends of marijuana cigarettes.

The call to poison control was embarrassing enough, especially since my last call to that agency was only a month earlier after splashing Frontline into my eye. After once again enduring the laughter of the poison control staff, I learned that Kubota would be fine; I just needed to watch for a case of the marijuana munchies.

The next call I had to make, though, was the most embarrassing one I have made during my entire career. We've all heard the old excuse, "My dog ate my homework!" But this was probably the first time in history that a parole violator was set free because "My dog ate the evidence!"

display any signs of illness until the disease is in its advanced stages. The most common signs would be a soft, deep cough, shortness of breath, and weight loss.

A simple blood test can determine the presence of microfilaria in the blood stream. A more sophisticated occult test is often done to confirm a suspected diagnosis. If your dog is determined to be heartworm free, it is important to put him on a heartworm preventative for the months of the year (usually six in the Northeast) when mosquitoes are active. If you take your dog to warmer climates, you should consider having him on heartworm preventative year round.

*If you have questions about heartworm disease, its prevention or cure, you may e-mail Dr. Steven Teisch at [drmoo@together.net](mailto:drmoo@together.net).*

## Tovah is OK alone in house

[From Page 3]

they will return, eventually.

Well, it's a year later, Tovah is now about 3½, and she will stay all day in the house by herself. I have not put her through any formal training; I'm a believer in a consistent voice. If I say no, no one else in the house can say yes. If I say no this time, she knows that it will be no the next time, too. She knows the basic commands of come, sit, stay, down, no and several other commands. She minds me and everyone else in the house because they have all learned to use the same terms that I use.

Oh, yes, the cats. She gets along fine with them. They still haven't given her a lot of room yet, but they'll come around.

*(Carol Peck contributed to this article.)*



Clockwise from right: Brittany Munson and Roxy enter the costume competition; intrepid campers start a 10-mile hike; Susan Conant, Catherine Oldham and Joanne and Danny Duval at the registration table; Cathy Martin helps prep her sled team.



### Camp N Pack



#### ALASKAN MALAMUTE RESCUE



OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.

AMRONE  
PMB 213  
430 Franklin Village Drive  
Franklin, MA 02038

Susan Conant, President  
Stephanie Bayliss, Treasurer  
Joanne Duval, Secretary  
Robert Mellen, Editor

Find us on the Web at:

[www.amrone.org](http://www.amrone.org)

E-mail: [info@amrone.org](mailto:info@amrone.org)

© Alaskan Malamute Rescue of New England, Volume 1, No. 1, 2001. All rights reserved. Reproduction of this material without the express written permission of AMRONE is prohibited.